

lang="en">

Isekai ni Demodori Shimashita - WN Chapter

16-79

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Chapter 16 ~ Setting off to the Royal Capital

~terms to know before reading~

pichipichi ~ vigorous, energetic, lively, spirited (*ry* ~ a term from 2ch meaning “following omitted/abbreviated”, wasn’t sure how to translate it so I left it as it is.

bokutou ~ wooden sword. wooden sword is written in two different ways in this chapter, 木劍 = *bokken* which means wooden sword, and 木刀 = *bokutou* which can mean wooden katana or sword. *bokutou* is left in Japanese to differentiate the two.

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Chapter 16 – Setting off to the Royal Capital

With my preparations for departure completed, I have a bit of time remaining.

With only 10 minutes, no matter what I do I won’t have time to complete it.

Now then, what should I do?

Feeling a little troubled, I decide to head over to the Prince’s room.

The knights are led by the Prince, therefore I shouldn’t be late if I’m near the Prince.

Arriving at the Prince’s room on the third floor, I shift my baggage to one hand and knock.

「Prince, it’s Sakura. Is it okay if I enter?」

「Enter」 was voiced out immediately from within.

「Excuse me.」

Saying a few words, I open the door.

Immediately after the door was opened-

「What happened? Need something?」

The Prince questioned.

「No, not exactly...」

Passing through the door while replying , I see the Prince and stiffen my words halfway.

Skin colour is reflected within my vision.

The Prince was in the middle of changing from his rough attire into a travelling outfit, his upper body is bare. Even though I have knowledge from my previous life about a man's bare body, it's only knowledge.

In my original world however, I had a life in a girl's school from elementary school up until now.

The only males you could say I was close to was my father and elder brother, and a grandfather who visits once or twice a year.

Master? He's not included in the male category.

In other words, I have no immunity.

Taking this opportunity, I'll say the Prince has a beautiful body. In addition, a *pichipichi* body in its early twenties.

For me who doesn't have the opportunity to see a bare body of a male of a regularly, even if it's not particularly good looking, it's poison to my eyes. A living weapon. I'm sure my reaction would be different if it was a filthy middle-aged man, but even if I say that the current situation doesn't change.

In other words, what I mean is...

「Uu..., KYAAAAAAAAAAA!」

Unexpectedly, I calmly grab the *bokutou* in my left hand with my right, and throw it towards the prince with all my might¹.

GON!

A dull sound was made.

Looking at the *bokutou* which magnificently flew straight towards the mark, it seems to have hit the Prince's jaw.

Silently, like in slow motion, the Prince fell on his back.

plop gon

I think something made a strange noise, but it's trivial before a shy young girl.

「Prince! If you're changing your clothes please say it! Also if you're going to fall down, fall down after you put some clothes on!」

I also think it's an unreasonable thing to say however, before a shy young girl
(ry.

I cover my eyes with my right hand, maybe I went too far? I thought while peeking at the Prince through the gaps of my fingers.

「*Ita*, all of a sudden what...」

The Prince gets up while holding onto his jaw.

While I hurriedly turned my back-

「A gentlemen shouldn't expose their skin in front of a lady! Please quickly put on some clothes! We can talk after that!」

I complain while being conscious of face which has become bright red.

It seems the Prince is grumbling in a soft voice, but I ignore it.

The sound of rustling of clothes can be heard in the background, a short time later-

「I've put on clothes. Turn around.」

His voice's tone carried a bit of anger.

I timidly turn around while trying to look as little as possible.

Caught in the corner of my field of view, the Prince was dressed neatly.

When I raised my head (The Prince probably exceeds 180cm. Those who are tall are the enemy) the area where his jaw got hit was red.

「Even though I've yet to take off my lower half, the upper half of my body is enough to get you angry? If it's only that much, what about when the group of knights finishes their practice?」²

He complained while putting on a jacket.

「That's unrelated. The problem is you let a lady inside the room while you were changing your clothes.」

Just now, recalling the flesh colour from a while ago, I feel my cheeks turning red as I answered back.

「In the first place, since you're royalty you need to pay attention to these things. If other women saw they would get the wrong idea. You need to avoid that possibility. It's also your duty.」

No matter how much charm I lack as a women, they'll be people who misunderstand. I've heard that among people's preferences, there are some little girl enthusiasts. My father and elder brother warned me to be careful when I was a child. Well, examples like「Don't follow strangers」and「Ring the crime prevention buzzer if a stranger talks to you」were often said.

For some reason when I entered senior high school my friend told me the same thing... I wonder what their intention was?

I've deviated my story.

In other words, it means there'll be people who sees this situation and misunderstands, If there's such a possibility, it should be avoided as much as possible. Especially since the possibility of it being troublesome.

When I gave that explanation,

「I understand, it was my bad. It'll be fine if I pay attention from now on right?」

For some reason I feel he's irresponsible, well, it's fine if he understands. I just

want him to pay attention from now on.

I'm not quite satisfied but, I won't have anything to do with the Prince after this. At any rate, although he's the second, the other party is a prince of an entire country. And I plan on becoming an ordinary adventurer in order to find a way back to my original world. Our common ground will be lost.³

After agreeing, the Prince picks up the thrown *bokutou*.

「This is awfully hard, what is this? It looks like a wooden sword from the appearance but... Can you throw such a thing?」

It appears it attracted the Prince's attention. Could he be brimming with curiosity? How troublesome *ne*.

「Ah... B-Because it was an emergency... I'm sorry. I roughly turned it sideway but... As for that, well, it resembles one. It's called a katana in my country, this is a weapon used to practise made from wood, it's called *bokutou*. It's similar to a wooden sword because it's a sword made from wood.⁴」

After explaining, his curiosity flared up hearing that it's a weapon from another world.

While I was thinking of showing off the *bokutou* because it couldn't be helped, a knock was heard.

「It's Rias. Prince, The preparations have been completed for departure.」

It appears to be the Squad Captain. The door remained closed as only a voice was heard.

「I understand. We'll leave immediately.」

When I turned to look at the Prince, before I knew it, he had put on his cloak and his armor worn on top of his travelling outfit. When did...

The Prince grabbed a bag, looked over to me and called out, 「Let's go」 and went towards the door.

Because it'll be a problem if I'm late, I obediently followed.

Rattling, the carriage moves along while shaking.

Although it's my the second time since yesterday, I've gotten tired of the scenery.

It's difficult to ride on a carriage for hours.

At any rate, there's nothing to do. I have free time.

Inside the carriage is the Prince, just the two of us. There's nothing to talk about anyways, we've already talked about the essentials over yesterday. It's not that I don't have anything I want to hear about but, I might not get any information from this Prince who looks like he's ignorant of the world.

I wonder how long until we arrive.

From my experience the time until lunch, should be approximately 3 hours I think? I believe that's around 4 o'clock.

Eh? Lunch? Of course I'm making it but...

However there's not more ingredients. Please buy some more ingredients from a village...

What's left are only dried meat, stiff bread and several fruits. The only seasoning is salt.

How can I cook with these...

Yes, I did my best you know? I told one of the knights to prepare a stove, with spices I had mixed and prepared〔just in case〕in a pot, I made a simple curry soup. The only ingredient is dried meat. There are several times I've made curry from curry spice made with my own spices, it's not exactly delicious, but when I was in Japan, I mix it with some over-the-counter curry roux to rework it myself and that tastes the best. Well, here I don't have flour or starch to change the viscosity, there isn't any onions or potatoes or carrots either. It's enough in this situation, probably a passing mark.



a fancier curry soup

It seemed enough for the knights but, it was finished in no time.

I personally didn't do my best. I think I achieved my revenge in some way.

On the journey after lunch, especially when there's nothing to talk about and watching the unchanging scenery isn't interesting.⁵

Before I knew it, I drowsily dozed off and fell asleep.

Later when it would be time to get up, I would regret it.

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Notes

1. わたしは意外と冷静に、左手に持っていた木刀を右手でつかみ、思いっきり王子に向かって投げつけました。
2. 「下まで脱いでたわけでもないのに、上半身くらいでそこまで怒ることか？このくらいなら、骑士団の连中でも稽古が終われば全員だぞ？」

3. そしてわたしは元の世界に戻る予定のただの冒険者になるつもりです。接点は無くなるはずです。
4. 「あ……と、咄嗟のことだったので…。すみません。一応横向きにはしたんですが…。これは、まあ、似たようなものです。これはわたしの国の刀という武器を練習用に木で作ったもので、木刀と言います。木で作った剣が木剣なので同じようなものですね」
5. そんなお昼を挟んでの道中、特に語ることもなくあまり変化のない風景を見ても面白くありません。

Chapter 17 ~ Within the Carriage

~terms to know before reading~

oppai ~ breasts, usually large.



Chapter 17 – Within the Carriage

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「.....ro...ru...」

My body sways from side to side.

I have a feeling something is touching my cheek.

「Wake up, Sakura. We've arrived.」

I hear a voice.

I slowly open my eyes and get surprised with the situation before me.

「HYA, P-Prince!? Closecloseclose! Your face is too close!」

Right, too close when I woke up, to be accurate the Prince's face was looking right at my face.¹

That wasn't the only thing that surprised me, the Prince's hand was touching my cheek.

What is this, this situation.

First thing after waking up, the situation is spinning in my mind as I try to immediately understand it.²

However, the Prince's face is the only thing within my view.

I unconsciously move backwards to widen my field of view. But, directly behind me is a wall, I can't escape.

The Prince at the front gate, a wall at the back gate³. I'm in a pinch.

「P-Please move back!」

if I can't move back by myself, it's fine if I make him move back. Right as that came to mind, together with my voice, I push out both my hands with all my strength.

Together with a *bokutou* in my hand...

gon
plop

For some reason the Prince moved back together with a dull noise.

My field of view widens at last, I calm down for the time being.

...My heart's still beating really fast.

Being woken up by a man, especially a beauty up close is bad for my heart...

After slightly calming down, I suddenly grasp the situation.

This place is the carriage's interior, it seems I fell asleep midway through the journey.

The interior is dim, it seems it's evening.

The light shining through the carriage's window appears crimson, it's sunset as I thought.

Now then..., I can understand the current situation now but...

I wonder why the Prince's face was in front of me?

This problem needs to be solved.

I-It can't be...

The Prince likes little girls so he was going to assault me as I was asleep...? Is it possible while I was asleep, my lips were...?

As I was thinking, the Prince stares at me while coving his mouth with his hand.

Sat on the opposite side, the Prince looks at me hatefully as he holds onto jaw which was slightly red.

「Prince..., what did you do...?」

I believe it can't be helped that my tone carries a hint of accusation.

Perhaps, it's because my first kiss might have been stolen while I was asleep.

「What, I was going to wake you up since we've arrived. I lightly tapped your cheek because you didn't get up when I called out. And yet I got hit without warning... On the same place as this morning nonetheless. Take it a little easy on me. I don't want to say too much, but even as a joke, I'm still a Prince you know.」

He says while rubbing his jaw, I shift my attention to the *bokutou* I'm holding.

「What are you saying! I didn't hit you, I whacked you merely by chance⁴! I apologize for that, but it's also the Prince's fault! Who wouldn't be surprised if they wake up and a face suddenly appears!? I've said it before haven't I!? Please don't do things which can cause misunderstandings! While I was sleeping, I-lips, that, I thought you stole it!⁵」

I rattle on while turning red.

「Wait wait, it was my fault that I was looking at your face, but it was because you wouldn't readily get up. Besides, I wouldn't do an outrageous act like attacking someone in their sleep! I'm not interested a child either!」

It seems nothing was done to me while I was asleep. I'm relieved.

But, I have a feeling I heard an inexcusable remark.

「Child? You just said child just now *ne*? Who's the child! I certainly look small but I'm 15 years old! I'm an adult! In half a year I'll be of age to get married! It's the age of an adult in this world! Although it's small I still have breasts! I can even give birth... no, I'll soon reach the point where I can give birth! What!? The Prince also prefers it big!? Is it the breasts!? Are breasts that important!? Are all men from the planet of *oppai*!?」

With my complex stimulated, I complain as my eyes become a little teary.

「Yes, isn't that right? As expected, a female's charm is measured by their breast size *ne*! Excuse me for not stimulating your desire to assault me with my childish figure!」

I turn away in a huff after saying that, I gather up my baggage in order to get off the carriage.

And then, when I try opening the door while the carriage was still moving, the Prince flustered-

「Wait, the carriage is still moving! Do you plan to jump off!? You'll injure yourself!」

-and caught my arm from behind.

I declare to the Prince without turning around.

「Even if I injure myself a little I'll be alright! Because I have good reflexes. I don't want to be together with a pervert from the planet of *oppai*!」

「Nononono, what is this *oppai* alien? I don't know what it means but somehow I understand what you're trying to say... I didn't say a women's charm is their breasts either. It was my fault to call you a child. I apologize. But that, you know, about not having a desire to assault you. Sakura's sleeping face is lovely, *na*? Although I think the usual Sakura is cute too but, when you're asleep you don't look strong, because of that, how do I say it... What am I saying...」

I stiffen up from his voice.

When I turn around to look at the Prince's face, the Prince's looks away as his

face turns red, angrily muttering to himself.

My face probably also flushed red.

At any rate, I've frequently been called cute up until now but, only my family and friends have called me that.

Other than my family, it's my first time experiencing being called cute face to face from the opposite sex.

Furthermore the Prince is a beauty. I never occurred to me that I was attracted to beauties, but even so it impacted me more or less.⁶

In other words, how did it turn out like this...

「U-Umm... Thank...you...?」

I'm confused.

I don't understand the Prince's intention.

Having said that, without any experience with this kind of thing, I don't have the skills to investigate the real meaning behind those words.⁷

Speaking of what I'm doing, I'm looking down with a flushed face.

Notes

1. そう、起きたわたしのすぐ近く、正確にはわたしの顔を覗き込むように王子の顔がありました。
2. 起き抜けの頭は一気に回転を速めて状況を把握しようとします。
3. 前門の王子、後門の壁。
4. 殆ったんじゃありません、たまたま当たっただけです！
5. 眠っている間に、く、唇を、その、奪われたのかと思いました！」
6. 普段のサクラも可愛いと思うが眠っていると強気なところがなくて、その分、なんというか...。
7. 決して美形が好き、ということが無いわたしでも多少は影響します

Chapter 18 ~ The People who Live in this World

~terms to know before reading~

gori-macho ~ big and muscular like a body builder, gori is from the word gorilla, describing them like one too. for those who are interested there's also **hoso-macho** which means slim and muscular

Chapter 18 – The people who live in this world

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Being fairly popular in my previous life and having experience with women, I've experienced the sensual pleasures.

Naturally, I seemed to have experienced love as well.

However, the difference was it was from a male standpoint, the current me has no experience.

The me in Japan, since becoming aware (recalled my previous life's memory) of the things around me, went to school during the day, then to the dojo after returning home and jogged to increase my stamina. After beginning cooking, my time is used for meal preparations and making sweets, occasionally I go out and play with friends.

As far as socializing with boys, there were almost no opportunities for any encounters. Even in middle school when I began learning Aikido in a dojo, it was mostly women taking lessons in the art of self defence. The instructor was a woman too, the only males were several elderly men. I never had an encounter with them.

Even if I encountered someone, because of my appearance I believe I wouldn't even become a target of affection.

It was also the case that I wasn't personally interested but...

The personal experiences in love are what I hear from my classmates, like which idol or actor is attractive, like who in which school is good looking.

Of course, even though it's an *ojou-sama* school, not everyone acts like a lady.

Although there are people who have lovers or in an adult relationship, however as far as I know, those type of people haven't appeared in my daily life.¹

In other words.

It appears I'm an *ojou-sama* which has too much superficial knowledge about sex.

...But now that I remember, I led quite an unromantic life *ne*.

While recalling about myself in Japan and what I should be doing in this situation, the carriage seems to have stopped.

We seemed to have arrived at the Royal Capital.

Fortunately, this is the only thing that washes me away from my current situation.²

「Prince, we appear to have arrived. Let's get off.」

By now the sky has become considerably dark. I need to quickly search for an inn for tonight.

The Royal Capital, saying that the public order shouldn't be too bad but, after coming to a town with some money through all that trouble, I don't want to be sleeping outdoors in this situation.

「So it seems」

The Prince answers briefly.

It appears the Prince has pretending this situation hasn't happened.³

At this rate I'll have to think of a way to drag him out...

Immediately, as I'm about to open the carriage's door, immediately, the door was opened from the outside.

Unexpectedly, because of my posture, which was when I was about to lay my

hands on the door, I start to fall out the carriage.

In that several instance, I fall, my body stiffens up, but the impact which I imagined didn't arrive, on the contrary I'm bewildered by the feeling of being pulled from behind.

「Wasn't your reflexes good? Be careful.」

Examining the little astounded tone which came from behind me, the Prince was grabbing onto the bag I was carrying on my back.

It seems I was pulled back from behind.

One way or another, although I want to retort back, the result is that I've been helped.

I'm not a child who can't say thanks. I'm a splendid adult.

「Thank you very much.」

My tone turned a little sulky as I behaved ingratiatingly.⁴

After getting off the carriage, there were knights lined up before my eyes.

Could it be my imagination that I don't see the faces of half the knights we travelled together with?

And the number of knights are greater than the number of people we came with, it feels like there's a lot.

Furthermore, a well dressed...noble...? A man around 50 years old stood.

This man is also tall. My neck is getting tired from looking up.

This world, what's going on with it. Are everyone giants?

Which reminds me, for the「Human race」of this world, my knowledge of the average height of adults are 185cm for males, 170cm for females.

Everyone are generally huge *ne*. This world, enemies are everywhere *ne*.

My current explanation may not include everyone, but the human beings in my world are known as the「Human race」in this world, other than them there are

also other races living here.

To start off, the familiar fantasy races, the「Elf race」and「Dwarf race」are known as a「Sprite race」.

「Elf race」are a race which have high affinity with sorcery, most elves can use elementary level sorcery.

Of course, there are elves who are mages among them.

Usually their tribes will build a settlement within a forest, they making a living from hunting and sorcery. Concerning their life in a forest, they're skilful at handling a bow.

Although their lifespan isn't over several hundred years like in most cases in novels, it's longer than the Human race still, I'm sure it's around 200 years. Incidentally there are many beauties. Ah, their ears are long too.

Like the「Human race」, they become adults at 15 years of age, it seems the average height of a male is 180cm, and the average height of a female is around 165cm.

By the way, from my knowledge, the lifespan of the「Human race」is 100 years.

Next is the「Dwarf race」but, their characteristics are different from the short, muscular and hairy faced old men with many craftsmen among them.⁵

Well, it's roughly like that but, even though their average heights are short, there are some Dwarves that are around 180cm. Male Dwarves are mostly muscular and *gori-macho*.

Many Dwarves will become craftsmen, about half the Magic Technician's are from the「Dwarf race」

Similar to how the「Elf race」places their settlements but, they reside in various places like mountainous regions, plains, the proximity of forests and downtown areas.

Dwarves that live in mountainous regions make a living off processing ores, in the plains they do agricultural work, and in the proximity of forests they do

agricultural, forestry and woodworking it seems.

Of the「Dwarf race」, around 40 percent are in mountainous regions, around 30 percent in agricultural areas, downtown has approximately 10 percent, and the remaining work in forestry.

Like the「Elf race」, the「Dwarf race」's lifespan is around 200 years and they become adults at 25 years of age, supposedly the average height of males are 160cm, females are around 155cm.

The race's trait other than their stature

The features of the race, other than height, are their small pointed ears and better physique compared to other races.

Saying that the「Elf race」as well as the「Dwarf race」are especially unsociable isn't right, each respective race interacts with other races throughout their live.

Unlike some novels, the「Elf race」and the「Dwarf race」aren't on bad terms, rather, their relationship is pretty good compared to other races.

The「Sprite race」can be usually seen in towns, there are some who serve the country among them.

Besides that is the「Beastmen race」, a portion live within their own settlements, while most of the「Beastmen race」live within the towns of the「Human race」.

If I'm right, the characteristics of the race is a trait of an animal somewhere on their body.

The so-called animal ears and tail, *ne*.

「Beastmen race」are generally specialized in physical ability, each carrying their own animal trait. The cat beastmen are fast, dog beastmen have a good sense of smell and thorough physical strength.

Although I say it's their specialization, their race's sufficiency in sorcery is low, the probability that a「Beastmen race」becoming a「Magic Technician」are

roughly none.

Judging by the comprehensive level of physical ability, compared to the other races, they have a small advantage, but there shouldn't be a difference when including other fields of specializations.

Unlike other races, their lifespan and height differs from each other, I believe the lifespan is 80 years to 120 years, height of a male is 170cm to 220cm, females are 160cm to 200cm.

By the way, the「Beastmen race」is a race few in numbers, fairly certain the amount of people is only 20 percent compared to the「Human race」.

I have a feeling that I've heard this has occurred but, very rarely when Beastmen grow up into adults, they're able change into an animal form.

Other than the races which converges towards the「Human race」, Goblins and Kobolds, giants, such as Orcs and Ogres, are referred to as the「Demi-human race」which are hostile towards the「Human race」, there are also other races such as demonic beasts and the Dragon race.

From my knowledge, towards the「Human race」,「Sprite race」and「Beastmen race」, the「Demi-human race」will mostly attack without question, treating them as slaves at times.⁶

Demonic beasts will act similarly, their aggression is no different to a beast, they have a large body with a practically ferocious nature.

Because the「Demi-human race」and demonic beasts are hostile towards people, they've become targets of subjugation for adventurers, the subjugation requests are supposedly dealt with by the adventurer guild.

The Dragon race have large individual differences, they're close to demonic beasts but their intelligence is no less of the「Human race」, with various mild natures.

However, the Dragon race generally have high abilities, they're not an opponent for adventurers who are low leveled.

It's a cheat race.

If you come across the Dragon race, it's recommended that you run away.

By the way, who am I explaining this to...?

Feeling down after being reminded of the height differences, "No, I'm still 15 years old, my growth period is only beginning", while comforting myself with those words, the Prince, the Squad Captain and the noble-like uncle are chatting together while glancing at my direction.

What is it? As I gazed over, their conversation seems to have ended, from the Prince-

「Sakura, follow me because I need to give you your reward.」

was what he said.

I look up at the dark sky, as I was thinking, "do whatever you want about the reward but I want to be introduced to an inn", the Prince's party started walking into my field of view, because of that I panicked and followed along.⁷

Notes

1. 中にはもっと進んだ、恋人やいわゆるオトナの関係、といった人もいたようですが、わたしの知る限り、身の回りにはそういった人はいませんでした。
2. これ幸い、とばかりにわたしはこの状況を流してまうことにしました。
3. どうやら王子もこの状況は無かったことにするようです。
4. 少し拗ねた口調になるのは愛嬌、というやつです。
5. 次に「ドワーフ族」ですが、特徴としては背が低く、筋肉質で髭面親父で職人が多い、なんてことはありません。
6. 「亜人族」は「人族」や「妖精族」、「獣人族」に対してはほとんど、問答無用で襲いかかり、時には奴隸として扱っている、と知識にあります。
7. わたしは暗くなった空を見上げて、お礼とかどうでもいいから宿を紹介してほしい、なんて考えていると、王子御一行が歩きだしたのが視界に入ったので慌ててついていきます。

Chapter 19 ~ Suddenly...

[ch16](#) ~ [ch17](#) ~ [ch18](#)

Chapter 19 – Suddenly...

Guided by the Prince, Squad Captain and the noble-like uncle, three knights (not the knights we were travelling with) followed behind me while pestering me to move faster.

I had to walk double the pace because of our large difference in height.

I'd like to be treated a little more like a lady.

I was desperately following, to top it off, I'm surrounded by tall men while walking (running), so because of that I couldn't understand where we're headed.

Fortunately, from the lit up surroundings, I see we're currently travelling through a large corridor somewhere.

Could these lights be lamps? The flames weren't flickering and the brightness was uniform which was unexpected. Has it been created by something like a Magic Tool?[\[r1\]](#)

While I was having trouble grasping the situation, we arrived at our destination.

Since walking through the long passageway and climbing up two sets of stairs, roughly 20minutes have passed. As expected, I was out of breath after jogging the whole way.

When I looked up, an extravagant and large set of double doors was before me.

I don't know what's happening or where I am currently, it should be time someone said something about the situation, even a little bit is fine.

「It's Sedrim, I've just returned. Let me in.」

The prince called out while facing the doors, then the large doors opened from the inside.

After seeing the Prince glance around, he entered into the room beyond the doors.

The Squad Captain and the noble-like uncle subsequently entered.

While worrying about what to do, a voice behind me whispered「Enter」.

It's inevitable even if I stand here, so I entered obediently.

Once I entered the room, the sound of the doors closing behind me was heard.

For the time being I approached the prince to escape from the large men which surrounded me, I was surprised while surveying the room.

「Prince, what is the situation?」

「A report on the completed bandit subjugation for father. This is necessary.」

The Prince was approached by a whisper, and so he answered with those words.

Before me with an appearance in their forties sat on an extravagant chair, probably a throne, dressed in extravagant clothing and the top of his head a crown was placed, a man growing a moustache.

On his right, formally dressed in armor and a helmet, a man with a grim air with a sword on his back. Around 50 years old?

On his left, was the noble-like uncle who travelled together with us from the carriage not long ago.

Next to him, a man with a staff dressed in a robe.

Furthermore, several men that seem to be nobles are lined up to the left and right, on the sides of the walls formally dressed in armor and a helmet, with swords hung on their backs, several knights were lined up with spears in hand.

There were knights with similar appearances before entering the doors.

It looks like a scene of an audience room often seen in movies.

Why, why am I in such a place?

As I searched for an answer I looked to my side, the Prince and Squad Captain were kneeling.

「Your order for the bandit subjugation has been completed, I have returned just now.」

Saying so, the Prince and the Squad Captain lowered their heads.

While thinking ‘what’s up with that?’, I gazed at the one sitting on the chair at the centre, perhaps this country’s King. That person...

「Well done returning. Most importantly you’re safe. And so, this girl is?」

He asked a question whilst directing his gaze at me.

...What a bitter voice.[\[r2\]](#)

「This person is Sakura Fujino. I was saved when I was in danger during the subjugation. I brought her here to be rewarded.」

The Prince answered.

Should I greet him too?

「Fumu, It seems the Prince has been under your care, I would also like you to accept my gratitude.」

As I was thinking about this and that, the King said some brief words.

Bewildered by this interaction, the grim faced knight next to the King suddenly shouted.

「You! Kneel down! You are in the presence of the King!」[\[n1\]](#)

What’s with this all of a sudden. Suddenly being brought before the King without any explanation, the one who’s bewildered is me, even shouting at me without hearing me out, I’m a little irritated. Is this what you call a feeling of defiance? Arbitrarily declaring that just now, I want to oppose him. I’m self aware of my bad habit...

「I don’t mind. And so, as my gratitude to you, is there anything you wish for?」

The King seems to have intervened.

Is he surprisingly open minded?

Since he's waiting for my answer, I'd better reply.

「No, there's nothing in particular that I want.」

If possible, I'd like to return to my original world, but even if I say that, it wouldn't come true.

Besides, if there's something I would take as gratitude that isn't too complicated, let's see.

Quickly bring an end to this so I can go search for an inn.

「Uhm, Is that alright for me I wonder? I'd like to return soon.」

I heard the chime of the bell not long ago.

Judging from the time we arrived here, its 10 koku I think. So 8 o'clock at night, right? [\[n2\]](#)

It'll be 8:30 if I can return to town right now, then I'll have to quickly search for an inn.

I'm also hungry...

When I looked at the prince, he seemed somewhat troubled, watching me with a bewildered expression.

...Did I make a mistake?

However, even though the Prince is kneeling and I'm standing, our eye level is still the same.

Just how huge are you? Is it okay to pick a little bit off for myself?

「You! Kneel down! Lower your head! Are you a child that knows no manners?!」

The Grim Knight starts yelling again.

This is quite troublesome...

「I at least, who was brought to this place without any explanation. I don't

know what kind of person the one called the King is. Therefore I'd be troubled if I were to lower my head all of a sudden to that King. I understand that he can move the country and should be respected, but currently that's all he is. In addition, a knight who starts yelling at someone without allowing them to explain has no right to talk about etiquette.]

A person like you has no right to call me a child or say I have no etiquette.

Hmph, I answer while turning my head to the side. I'll decide who I'll respect with my own eyes.

「What was that! Just because a child like you received an audience doesn't make you special! A child that came from who knows where! I'll toss you into prison!」

I suddenly hear an angry voice in the vicinity, when I looked over surprised, the Grim Knight who was yelling earlier was approaching, stretched out his arm to seize me.

With a large build of approximately 2 meters he was swiftly approaching, I was surprised with his arm length, I promptly grabbed his arm and twisted it, and as his posture crumbled, I kicked the back of his knee and he lost his posture, drove my palm to the side of his jaw as his body fell.

After his posture collapsed, the attack made the Grim Knight stagger unintentionally, and fell on his back.

It was instinctively done as self-defence, although it was a beautiful hit on the jaw, it was a regular attack without any Ki put into it. He's wobbling a bit it seems.[\[r3\]](#)

However, after being thrown down by child with a weak appearance, the Grim Knight got up with a bright red face.

「You brat! I won't allow anymore!」

The Grim Knight took action, drew the sword from his back and charged.

This guy sure has a considerably low boiling point.

Doing something like this so close to the King.[\[r4\]](#)

And also, child this, child that, so annoying. I wonder if I should get a little serious?

I cope with it while watching calmly.

The Prince and Squad Captain next to me tries to help, but they most likely won't make it in time since they're currently kneeling.

The Grim Knight brandishes his sword in an overhead position with both hands. The opponent has his whole body concealed in armor so I'll be at a disadvantage if I'm to attack normally.

Shifting my body to match the sword while it's swinging down, I collected Ki in my right hand and follow the sword's blade and shift its trajectory.

The moment the sword strikes the floor, I leap up using the hands gripping onto the sword as a stepping stone.

I grasped the opponent's head with both hands so I wouldn't miss the impact, gathered Ki onto my knee and slammed it into his forehead with all my strength.

The attack seemed to be effective, the Grim Knight lightly flew off and collapsed. As expected, he didn't let go of his sword, is what I should be saying right?

I wonder if the collapsed Grim Knight has a concussion, he's not getting up.

For several seconds, no movement happened in the room, the Prince who came back to his senses — 「Arrest him!」

— Let out a shout, the knights who were by the wall removes the Grim Knight's sword.

The Grim Knight's concussion seems to have ended and stood up whilst staggering a little.

「YOU BASTAAARD! I'LL KILL YOU!」

He can still talk.

He's the one who started this though. Getting beaten at his own game, why is he angry? I'm the one who should be angry.

「Gildas! Stop, this is an order!」

The King shouted

The violent Grim Knight = Gildas obeyed the order with a bright red face.

Gildas...?

That name seems to be mixed in with my memories of my previous life.

Right, the last words I said in my previous life...

(Gildas... you...)

Could it be...

「Grim Knight-san, is your name Gildas Somur Lambert by any chance?」

He seems familiar when I look closely.

The one who responded was the King.

「Indeed, that person's name is Gildas Somur Lambert but... Sakura right? Do you know Gildas?」

It appears I'm right.

The enemy I met in my previous life...

If I'm not mistaken, Gildas was supposed to be 20 years old at the end of my previous life. The Gildas in front of me is around 50 years old... Perhaps, not much time has passed since the end of my previous life...? Approximately 20 to 30 years?

It'll be necessary for me to confirm this later.

Let's say 30 years, if we assume that, there should be people that know me from my previous life.

Right, because I was Sobule Kingdom's Royal Court Mage in my previous life.

For now, let's postpone confirming the current era

「Right... But the knowledge I have seems to be from a considerably long time ago. At any rate, he was the one who killed me in my previous life.」

While surveying the interior of the room, there's things which appear in my previous life's memory, also after hearing that, the Prince and the Squad Captain had a baffled expression, the other people had a 'what's this person talking about?' type of expression judging from their face.

「What are you saying! Your face doesn't resemble anyone I know!」

Gildas shouts.

「Settle down, Gildas. So, what's going on? Are you going to explain?」

After being told off by the King, Gildas who was shouting became docile.

「I understand. Please restrain him. It'll be troublesome if he starts rampaging again.」

After saying so, Gildas got restrained.

「Although Prince Sedrim and Squad Captain Rias knows already, I came here from a different world. A proof of the otherworld was shown at an earlier time, Prince Sedrim and Squad Captain Rias has an understanding of it. Isn't that right?」

This part of the explanation will be lengthy, so I used these two people as verification instead.

「Yes, she suddenly appeared from the sky during the bandit subjugation, I've also received the object of evidence. I guarantee it.」

「Umu, me too.」

Both the Prince and Squad Captain voice an agreement.

「And so, as I mentioned before, I remember my「Previous Life」. 「Previous Life's Knowledge」would be more precise. My previous life has turned into knowledge. What kind of world I lived in, what I was doing, what kind of person I was, friends, acquaintances and so forth.」

The moment surveyed the room, I met the King's gaze.

「My previous life's name was「Lyle Dist」. I was Sobule Kingdom's Royal Court Mage.」

Notes

1. Angry Knight always uses 貴様 = kisama for “you”[\[return\]](#)
2. 1 koku = 2 hours, 1 day = 12 koku[\[return\]](#)

Raw lines/words

1. 魔具[\[return\]](#)
2.渋くていい声です[\[return\]](#)
3. 少しふらついた程度でしよう[\[return\]](#)
4. よくこんなのが王様のそばにいますね[\[return\]](#)

Chapter 20 ~ Evidence of Previous Life

Chapter 20 – Evidence of Previous Life

「My previous life's name was『Lyle Dist』. I was Sobule Kingdom's Royal Court Mage.」

The room goes into a commotion.

「Lyle Dist...? Impossible...」

It seems there's many people that recognise this name.

「Well, it'll be difficult to prove my relation to my previous life. However, coming from a different world, whether you believe me or not, I can speak this world's language at least, Gildas Somur Lambert knew Lyle Dist, and so forth, there are several things which I seem to understand*. There's no time to answer questions so I'll go ahead and start my hypothesis.」^[1]

I cut off my words and moisten my lips.

「Regarding the subject of Gildas Somur Lambert killed Lyle Dist, in my previous life, I was given the mission to head to the neighbouring country, Serbatos Republic, for a diplomatic visit. Whilst returning at the end of our mission, we were at an area half a day's walk away. Our group which took on the mission was attacked. It was most likely an ambush. From the way the bandit's spoke, they were most likely hired by someone. The bandit's numbered 60, our group including Lyle Dist numbered 21, we lost in numbers but we had the mage Lyle Dist, we expected to be able to deal with them.」

I looked at Gildas for a brief moment.

Gildas' face was sweating and had a surprised expression.

「We took the initiative and shot off a fireball, once the melee battle started, I started manipulating a Fire Arrow, at that time, Gildas Somur Lambert who happened to a guard, pierced my chest from behind. At the time Lyle Dist

collapsed, he saw the face of Gildas Somur Lambert gripping the sword which had pierced his chest, and so, that was the reason I said someone had hired them. What Lyle saw before his death was several knights, which were supposed to be allies, attacking the remaining knights.]

Once I finished, I observed the King's face.

His face showed that he was puzzled on how he should judge this.

「LIAR! A FABRICATED STORY! I DID NO SUCH THING!」

Gildas screamed wildly.

He sure is a stubborn guy.

「To suddenly believe in such a story... Lyle-dono certainly went on such a mission, I did hear he was attacked by bandits when returning to the castle from the Republic. That was also the time Lyle-dono passed away. It's identical to the place I heard about. However. Gildas and several others that survived certainly at that time returned and reported that; the bandits were annihilated, half the knights and Lyle-dono were killed. It may be hard for you to believe, but Gildas is the Captain of the Imperial Guards and also an excellent knight. Killing Lyle-dono, as well as allied knights is too unbelievable...」

The King expresses his worries.

「It's not possible to prove if those words are true. At any rate, Lyle-dono died 25 years ago. There isn't any remaining evidence.」

Fumu, so the me from my previous life died 25 years ago? What an unexpected place to obtain this information.

「At the very least, I may be able to prove that I was Lyle Dist in my previous life.」

「How will you do it?」

「Before that, can you force that guy to be silent? He's noisy so he'll interfere with my story.」

Gildas is persistent, he'll keep ranting on incomprehensibly.

Our conversation will be obstructed.

A single phrase from the King, 「Remain Silent」 was said, a gag was forced into his mouth by another knight.

It's still a bit noisy, but it's considerably better.

While recollecting knowledge from my previous life, I nimbly look through the room, and identify some faces which I recognise.

「Let's begin with the King. Your name is Lantis II Sobule, you were taught by Lyle Dist since you were a child. If I remember correctly, you were 24 years old when Lyle Dist passed away. You enjoyed sword training as a child, the knights had to bring you back to the castle several times since you always snuck out. At the age of 8, you got kidnapped when you snuck out of the castle. Around the age of 10, you sliced a vase in half with a wooden sword in Lyle Dist's office. Around the age of 12...」

I pick out my knowledge about the King, and arrange them in order.

12 years old was his first love, wasn't it?

「Okay, that's more than enough, I understand, don't say anymore.」

The King had gotten flustered. Even though I was getting to the good part.

「Is that so? There's still a long way to go...」

Well, it may be troublesome for him if I were to expose his past like that.

I face towards my next target.

「Next is the robed man over there. Ren II Buraias right?」

I shift my attention to the man wearing a robe with a staff.

「Y-Yes!」

His voice creaked.

He seems to be frightened, I wonder why?

「Len II Briath. Second son of a Count's household, confirmed to be suitable at sorcery at the age of 5, an apprentice of Lyle Dist. Started learning sorcery at the age of 6, it was ignition sorcery. Around the age of 7, you came back crying after

a fight with another child in town. Mastered elementary sorcery at the age of 8. Incidentally, at the age of 9, you set your hair on fire after failing to control an Intermediate Sorcery; Fire Arrow, and so you became bald. At the age of 10 you experienced your first love, your partner was...」

I arrange the information on my incompetent pupil.

「I recognise you! You were my master in your previous life! You are unmistakably Master Lyle!」

Ending midway again? I can still talk for about 30minutes you know?

「Is that so? But there's still more to talk about... Well for now it should be okay right? Since I've been recognized.」

The King and Len-san, I didn't realise the first time I saw them, I understood 25 years had passed since my previous life, so there might be a possibility there'd be someone who I'd recognise, was what I was thinking, unexpectedly it was closer than I thought. If I look carefully, I can see their old features.^[2]
With that said, on the contrary if I didn't take a close look I wouldn't have realized it.

Has anything changed in the last 25 years?

However, that mischievous prince became the King and my incompetent pupil became the Royal Court Mage.

I'm deeply moved.^[3]

Before I lost myself reminiscing, the King's voice emerged.

「You were indeed Lyle-dono, but even though I recognise you, it's still hard to believe Gildas murdered Lyle-dono...」

Suddenly declaring something as major as that without any evidence, it's obvious it'll cause confusion.

「This is just an assumption but, it's likely the one who commissioned Gildas Somur Lambert to kill Lyle Dist was the Prime Minister at that time. The motive would be, before Lyle Dist's visited the Republic, he investigated the Prime Minister of that time. The contents of investigation was weapon smuggling and embezzlement of the national treasury. Because Lyle Dist obtained evidence

before departing to the Republic, he planned on silencing him. I don't understand it well but just before I died, there were Knights who assisted in the murder, for them to be included in Lyle Dist's envoy, I believe the only person who could be linked together with that would be the Prime Minister at that time. If I remember correctly, his name was...」

I dug out his name and face buried in my memories.

「Right, I'm positive its Raglia Or Schnade, the 3rd son of a Baron household I believe.」

That was his name if I'm not mistaken.

Suddenly, I look to see the obedient Gildas with a pale expression and sweat streaming down his face.

「Although it's just an assumption, the agreement was likely a rise in status, or something along those lines don't you think? Knights are mostly the second and third son of a noble, the remaining are commoners. Raising your status amongst the Chivalric Order, isn't it an attractive reward? To some extent it's possible using the Prime Ministers power, with his support there's plenty of merit.」

Right, within the noble's ranking there's no one who could inherit a noble's title.

The eldest son is expected to inherit the title.

Then how about the second and third son who can't inherit a title? They can start a business, but most of them become a knight.

Those that want to be treated as a noble. will need to complete some sort of achievement to be granted a noble's title, or else other nobles who don't have an heir will be adopt other nobles into the family and have no choice but to become the son-in-law.

However, the exception within the Chivalric Order, a General leading 100 men will be given a title of Quasi-Baron, a General leading 1000 men will be given a of Baron, and a General leading 10,000 men will be given the title of Viscount.

Which is why, the merit of raising your status within the Chivalric Order, for

those who can't inherit a noble's title like the knights who are the second son and so forth, is exceedingly high.

「Fumu, When you say it like that I can agree^[4]. I'll direct an investigation on the survivors of the mission」

You sure are a King with good senses.

After altering their opinion about my previous life, are they going to easily believe in what I say now?

「And so about the evidence of embezzlement, it's supposed to be hidden in a vault in Lyle Dist's office for safe keeping. It should still be there since it's been concealed with sorcery. It cannot be opened unless you unlock it with the keyword anyways.」

I use this opportunity to talk about what I remember from my knowledge It's not necessary to keep it hidden away.

「Len is currently occupying Lyle-dono's office. We can confirm it anytime.」

「I don't mind but... What should we do about him?」

We gazed towards Gildas who was completely silent.

Gildas' sluggishly turned his head and looked over to the King.

「Well... Firstly, with no evidence to prove the murder of Lyle-dono, there will be no punishment at this current point. However at this rate, I cannot leave it as it is. Let's see, drawing his sword despite being in the presence of a King, assaulting not only a guest, but Sedrim's benefactor, and so, throw him into prison while we conduct an investigation. As for Raglia Schnade, perform an investigation on the suspicion of assisting the murder of Lyle-dono. Restraine them immediately. The Prime Minister at that time was Lord Sodom Caral Balshnia right?** Once the evidence has been confirmed, the Chivalric Order will immediately start restraining them. Send Gildas to jail. Order the Imperial Guards to go restrain Raglia Or Schnade. I'll entrust the personnel selection to you. I will head to Ren's office. The rest will come with me.」

The King swiftly issued orders.

However, Gildas was said to be the Imperial Guard Captain. Speaking of an Imperial Guard Captain, he should be treated equally to a General leading 10,000 men. In other words, a Viscount. And without definite evidence, he was easily restrained in prison... Is that okay?

Well, there's no point in me pondering about it right?

Raw lines

1. いくつかのことで理解してもらえると思います
2. よく見れば面影がありましたし
3. 感慨深いものがありますね
4. 言われると納得するものもあるな

Chapter 21 ~ Nostalgic Room

Chapter 21 – The Nostalgic Room

「This room here.」

Len-san stops in front of one of the doors.

The 20 people who were lined up following behind the King stops as well.

As usual, I had to jog over, my surroundings were nothing but giants who were encircling me so I couldn't see a thing.

Well, since I was looking through my past knowledge, I could guess where I was so it wasn't a problem but...

Hearing the door opening, I see Len-san and the King, the Prince and Squad Captain head into the room.

I subsequently enter.

Entering next was the noble-like uncle who was with us when we got off the carriage, it seems he's the current Prime Minister. In addition, several nobles follow... could they be the Cabinet Ministers?

From what I can see, the other people and the knights stood by outside the room.

Looking around, the room isn't too different compared to my past memory. Although there's several things which I don't remember, the foundation hasn't changed much.

「Not too much has changed from the time Master Lyle occupied this room. Although a few new additions were added...」

Len-san apologetically speaks.

Len-san, how come you're shrinking so much?

A question about his appearance gushed out, I couldn't help but carelessly ask.

「Err, uhm, I thought Master would be angry since I replaced some things in the room on my own accord...」

What, it's that?

「To begin with, I certainly know things regarding Lyle Dist, since the time I had his knowledge^[1]. But I'm not Lyle Dist. Fujino Sakura is a different individual. Besides, Lyle Dist wouldn't be angry at something of that degree.」

While being slightly sullen, I explain our important difference.

「I-Is that so. Pardon me.」

What is it? Len-san seems to act reserved towards me, how should I put it, I feel like he's frightened. Did I do anything?

At this rare this uncomfortable feeling will continue, I need to hear him out promptly.

「Len-san, I, did I do something to you? Feels like you're avoiding, or frightened of me^[2]. Though I can't explain it well, that's what it feels like.」

I looked up at Len-san while asking.

By the way Len-san is taller than the Prince. Around 190cm?

He had such an adorable atmosphere when he was still a small child...

That's right, looking up with his eyes when he was still below knee level might've been the cause.^[3]

While thinking of such things, I looked over.

「N-No, it's nothing! I am sorry!」

He's even more frightened. What is this...

「For now! That behaviour bothers me! Please act normal! There's no reason to be afraid of me!」

Good grief.

「HII-! I'm sorry, I'm sorry! I'll do my best so, anything but the punishment!」

He became even more frightened.

What's this punishment? Does it look like I'll do something like that?

Suddenly, a connection to the phrase「Punishment」was felt in my memory.

I wonder why?

I began to search within my memory.

...

So it's that...

Whenever Lyle Dist's pupil made a large mistake, he would use sorcery on him under the pretence of「Punishment」.

For example, with Protection Magic and Binding Magic used on Len-san, he'd be hung on a tree to lure out Demonic Beasts.

Those Demonic Beasts would playfully interact with Len-san, but from another point of view, he was being knocked around.

For example, with Protection Magic applied, he'd be launched with Flight Magic like a human cannon under the pretence of new sorcery experiment.

It was possible to fly but controlling it was unstable, and so he smashed into a tree at high speed.

For example, under the pretence of special training, with Protection Magic applied, Len-san would be targeted and showered with sorcery.

His body was protected by sorcery, but he would be in tatters from the aftershock of the blasts.

Of course, he wasn't in any danger of being killed, and Healing Magic was applied on all injuries.

Certainly, it can't be helped if that may have possibly became his trauma.

At any rate, I received him as a pupil when he was 5 years old...

Well, aside from Lyle Dist, I don't have that kind of intention.

In the first place, my body cannot use sorcery.

「Please calm down. though I said it a short time ago, because I'm not Lyle Dist, I don't plan on doing anything like punishment. To begin with, I cannot use

sorcery. Such a thing can't be helped,^[4]」

With this, the problem of me = Lyle Dist has been handled.

As for my personality I'm a completely different person, I have a feeling they'll disregard me as a person, I need to clearly reject it.

「Eh? I won't be punished? Really?」

What's this grown man, who's over 40 years old, talking about?

「Right, I won't. Besides, didn't I say this before?」

「Eh? But didn't you use Body Strengthening Magic a little while ago? There's no way you can't use sorcery. I felt the Mana.」

This sure is a pain.

Though I understand what he's saying.

What I used earlier was a technique called Qigong. It's a skill from my world.

Although it looks like sorcery, it's a skill.^[5]」

Right, the fundamental parts of Qigong's doesn't differ from sorcery.

Sorcery is energy within the body which transforms into power, in addition, a mental image must be provided before it can be invoked.

In contrast to Qigong, although the energy inside the body can be used the same way, with that knowledge, you surround the interior of your body and transform it into「Ki」, which your body can wear, is how the technique works.

The origin of the energy is the same but, the method to manage and transform it is different.

The energy consumption of Qigong is incredibly bad by the way.

If you clad your entire body with Ki and fight, you'll tire yourself then collapse in a blink of an eye.

At the times I fight, I'll only wear「Ki」when it's absolutely essential.

Understanding the explanation, for Sorcery and Qigong you must recognise the energy within your body, although they're both used the same way, I for some reason, can't change that energy into Mana.

What Len-san said 「Feeling of Mana」 was because, I was able to manipulate the energy within my body, was what it meant.

When manipulating the energy within your body, the overflowing 「Mana」 can be sensed from the outside. [r6]

The degree will vary but, a person who can manipulate 「Mana」 will be able to sense another person's 「Mana」.

「I've tested in both my world and this world, but I couldn't use sorcery. Both Sorcery and Qigong began from the same origin. Only the way you use it is different. The reason why you felt Mana, was because I used Qigong which came from the same origin as Magic.」

Though I think it's troublesome, I gave an explanation.

It'll be a problem if they expect me to use sorcery.

While speaking to Len-san, the King interrupts.

「Well, Sakura is still a child right? The earliest you can use sorcery is 5 years old, I've heard it's only too late once you reach 20. Although you can't use it right now, it's possible you'll be able to once you grow older. You're still small, there's no need to be impatient.」

What was that?

Is he comforting me because I can't use sorcery?

However, aren't you treating me like a child here?

「Everyone, although you keep calling me a child, I'm 15 years old. I'm an adult in this world. Besides, I don't feel particularly troubled that I can't use sorcery. I have a small appearance because of a trait my family has and my growth period is a little late that's all. I've only begun to grow.」

I wonder how many times I've had to explain this since I arrived at this world. Was this the 3rd time?

Because so many people I've come across has treated me as a child, it feels troublesome to explain.

「Nononono^[n1]! Isn't there a limit on how much your growth period can be

delayed!? No matter how I look you appear to be 5 ~ 6 years old, maybe 8 years old at best? 10 years old at best even if you were a Dwarf you know?^[7] Ahh, you came from a different world right! The flow of time might be different in your world, it should be that, it must be that!」

The King rattles on with his eyes wide open.

How disrespectful.

The Prince and the Squad Captain faced my direction while smirking.

Shall I pick on them later?^[r8]

The other people wore a surprised expression.

「I'm a fully fledged 15 year old. There's no difference between the flow of time of my world and this world. 1 day has 12 koku, 1 year has 365 days with 24 hours per day. The way we calculate a year is identical. The average height of a woman in my family is 160cm and lifespan is 85 years. You don't have to go as far as to say I'm not Human.」

「Eeh-? No, however, no matter how you say it... It's hard to believe...」

Good grief...

「Prince and Squad Captain too, please you say something about this.」

I decide to call out for reinforcements.

「Even if you say that. After hearing about it yesterday, to be honest, I'm having a hard time believing in it too.」

Far from being reinforcements, a spy has revealed himself.

「Is height such an important thing? Aah, if that's the case everyone's height should just be shortened. That's right, cutting off everything below the knee should be good don't you think? That should be about right. Let's do that.」

I search for something that can cut while saying those words, How about the sword the Prince or the Squad Captain is carrying?

It's a little large but it should be okay.

「W-W-Wait, calm down. Aah, Sakura an adult woman. Even though she

appears small, she's 15 years old. *Un*, a splendid adult.]

Noticing of the turbulent atmosphere, the Prince becomes flustered.

The King, Len-san and Squad Captain, the others as well, all nod.

Somehow, I have a feeling they don't believe that, is it just my imagination?^[9]

Notes

n1. iya iya iya iya

Raw lines/words

1. わたしは確かにライル・ディストだったことを知っていますし、その頃のことも知識として持っています
2. 避けられてる、というか、怯えられてる、というか
3. 膝から下をもげば見上げなくてもすむかもしれませんね
4. そんなことしようがありません
5. 技
6. 体内エネルギーを操れるようになると、表面に「魔力」と感じ取れるものがあふれます
7. ドワーフにしてもせいぜいが10歳だろう？
8. 後でもいでやりましょうか？
9. 認められたような気がしないのは気のせいでしょうか？

Chapter 22 ~ The Hidden Vault

Chapter 22 – The Hidden Vault

「Ahem, which reminds me, where is the vault hidden?」

The King forcibly changes the subject.

I guess that's fine.

「Uhm, it's here if I remember correctly.」

I pointed at a wall next to a bookshelf while saying so.

It doesn't look any different from a normal wall.

Nobody would realise a hidden vault would be there.

「Here, right? I can't feel any power from the Concealment Magic though...」

Len-san raises his brow, while staring at the place I pointed to

At the location where sorcery has been used, traces of mana will remain for some time.

It'll possible for a Mage to feel that mana.

In contrast to this situation where the place I used sorcery on, it's normal for Mana to remain until the sorcery has been canceled,

「Obviously. wouldn't it be exposed immediately if there was Mana? In addition to Concealment Magic, Mana Concealment Magic has been placed on top of it. So, please remove it」

I look up at Len-san after saying that.

「Ha? Master... no, Sakura-san, can you not remove it?」

Len-san stares at me with an expression that's been caught off guard.

What are you saying? Didn't I say it's been concealed with sorcery?

And so I can't use sorcery. It's obvious I won't be able to remove it.」

Seriously, don't you listen to a word people say?

「Quickly remove it please. It can be removed by Cancelation Magic. However, I believe it'll be impossible to remove it unless Len-san uses all his power.」

A considerable amount of Mana has been used for the construction of this Concealment Magic I don't know how much Mana Len-san has but, it'll be a waste of Mana if you poorly skimp on it. [\[r1\]](#)

While Len-san frowns when he heard me say「all his power」, he chants an incantation.

「Display one's true form before me!」[\[r2\]](#)

A sorcery's intensity, in short, is something depending on one's Fighting Spirit.

Using sorcery packed Fighting Spirit is stronger than ordinary sorcery.

On the contrary you'll get exhausted, compared to using only just sorcery.

The volume of your voice is important too.

Well, depending on the mage to some extent, the difference isn't significant.
[\[r3\]](#)

The place which the ordinary wall was at, starts to blur and distort.

After a short time, a small light surges out, once it settled down, the wall had hollowed out and small vault appeared in the interior.

It seems the release was successful.

Sweat starts forming on Len-san's forehead, and he roughly exhales.

It's said if your Mana is exhausted = body's energy has been used up, if you lose a large amount of Mana you'll faint.

「Thank you for your hard work. Now let's open the vault.」

After giving a word of thanks to Len-san, I take his place.

「Though you say you'll open it, there's no handle or key you know? How does it open?」

The King looks at the vault above my head, and he tilts his head while asking.

「 You place your hand on the door, then you say the keyword.」

After saying that I reach out my hand.

...

Once more, this time standing on my toes, I reach out my hand.

...

I can't reach.

Right, the hollowed area on the wall where the vault is placed is around 160cm from the floor, and then the vault is installed inside of the wall 50cm from the surface.

I can't reach it with my height.

You should've installed it lower, me of my previous life.

Gazes of pity pierces through me.

「...Please bring me... a stool...」

After saying so with my head down while biting on my lips, Squad Captain brings over a chair from a work desk.

I silently climb onto the chair, and finally, my hands reach the vault.

「Seal the true door of mine.」[\[r4\]](#)

Separating my hand after reciting the keyword, the vault's door opens.

A bundle of documents were amongst the vault.

After I took them out and briefly examined them, I handed them over to the King.

「With this, that's all of them.」

The King takes them, swiftly confirms the content and gives a nod.

「This is plenty of evidence. Deploy the Chivalric Order's troops. I'll leave the choice of personnel to you.

Depart immediately, Arrest Sodom Caral Balshnia. The charges are the suspicions of embezzlement of the national treasury and smuggling.]

The orders were given to the knights standing by outside.

The knights starts moving hastily, the nobles were stirring about in the area.

Even though 25 years has passed, an order to restrain the former Prime Minister has been made.

「Today will be prohibited from leaving the castle. Do not disclose this unnecessarily. You are now dismissed.」

The King announces it while passing the bundle of documents to the Prime Minister The remaining knights and nobles raises a voice of understanding, and disperses.

The 6 people left inside the room are the King, the Prime Minister, Len-san, the Prince, Squad Captain and I.

Am I finally free?

—Wait, what do they mean by not being allowed to leave the castle?

What about my plan? A place to stay? What will happen to my meals??

Kuu—...

My stomach rumbled while I was thinking about a meal.

This is embarrassing.

I feel the gazes of the 5 people inside this room gathered onto me.

Some way or another I squeeze out my voice, while holding onto my stomach with my bright red face hung down.

「Uu, mm... I, was supposed to look for an inn today to stay in but...」

I raise my hoarse voice.

I need to immediately search for an inn or else, at this rate I'll be sleeping outside.

Also I'm going to die. Mostly from shame and hunger.

「And so, because it'll be difficult to start searching at this time, is it possible to introduce me to an inn? So...」

I hear the sound of a bell.

Before I knew it, it seems it's 11 koku.

If I remember correctly, I'm sure it was 10 koku when I entered during the audience.

Looks like I've been standing for 2 hours since then.

Say if they introduce me to an inn, even if I move now, it'll take at least 30 minutes to arrive at the inn.

The main point of an inn is that they double as a bar, I should be able to have a meal.

Reach the inn, have a meal then take a bath... It'll be passed 12 o'clock by the time I can sleep.

While I was thinking of my plans,

「It won't be necessary to search for an inn. The matter of the Prince's reward has yet to be settled, and I must thank you for this case regarding the embezzlement and smuggling. You should stay here tonight. Although it'll be something simple, dinner can be prepared. You will be guided so please wait here for a moment.」

I received those words from the King.

Staying at the castle? How did it come to this? No no, I want to avoid anything potentially troublesome but...

「No, you don't need to do that as a reward. It'll be enough to just introduce me to an inn.」

Please let me decline your offer to stay here.

I tried to decline some way or another, but this time the Prince—

「Give it up. No one can leave the castle tonight. It'll affect our position as royalty if we let you go without thanking you properly. Stay here.」[\[r5\]](#)

I've been cornered.

To begin with, didn't the Prince bring me to the castle on his own accord?

While I was thinking about a way to refuse, a knocking sound was heard.

「Excuse me. I've come to guide the guest.」

A voice of a woman was heard on the other side of the door.

「Enter.」

After those words from the King, the door opens, and woman with the so-called maid outfit appeared.

Is that a real maid-san?

Leaving that aside, when was she informed?

Our talk about staying here or not happened just now.

While I was confused, my back was pushed towards the maid.

「This is the guest. Go guide her.」

Wai-, I haven't said I would stay here.

I glared at the King but, he lightly urged me with is chin.

「I shall guide you.」

Maid-san left those words and walked out to the corridor.

Haa... It's already decided, huh...[\[r6\]](#)

「I'll be under your care.」

I, who had given up, decided to follow the maid.

1. 下手に魔力をけちると魔力の無駄遣いにしかなりません[\[return\]](#)
2. 我が前に、そのあるべき姿を示せ！[\[return\]](#)
3. まあ、ある程度の魔術師になるとそれほど差は出なくなるのですが[\[return\]](#)
4. 我が封じるは真実の扉[\[return\]](#)
5. それになんの礼もせずに返したとあっては王族としての立場にも影響する。泊まっていけ[\[return\]](#)
6. 決定事項ですか[\[return\]](#)

Chapter 23 ~ Maid-san and I

Chapter 23 – Maid-san and I

「Your meal shall be brought immediately. Please relax for the time being.」

Upon arriving at the room, Maid-san left those words and departed from the room.

I place down my baggage for the time being, and decide to take a look inside the room.

Inside the room was a rectangular table and chairs which could sit 4 people. A painting and a vase was decorated on the side of the wall.

In addition, there is also a closet, dresser and a large bed placed here.

There are 2 doors inside the room, a washbasin and a toilet appeared when I opened the door in front of me. It appears to be a Western styled toilet.

A bathroom was located in the room from the other door.

If I'm not mistaken, this should be the 4th floor.

Aside from the washbasin, how do you use the bath from this location? Does water need to be carried up here?

Finishing checking the room, my meal seems to have arrived while I was wondering about that problem.

「I have brought your meal.」

Maid-san who entered, arranged the dishes onto the table from a wagon and made some tea.

I, who was hungry, said 「*Itadakimasu*」 and at the same time started to eat.

Roasted pork wrapped in herbs, chicken and vegetable soup and a familiar brown bread.

Could this tea be black tea? There's a transparent red hue.

I heard it's a local specialty imported from a country in the south. How fancy.

[r1]

I finished the usual thin tasting dinner, I recalled something I wanted to confirm as I was drinking tea.

「Uhm, there's something I'd like to ask, how does the bath work? This room is on the 4th floor right? Also, how does the toilet work?」

「Yes, water and sewer development was started 20 years ago in the Royal Capital as a public project. Presently, except for some parts, the installation of water and sewer services has been completed. Taken from the large river which flows from a river source west of the Royal Capital, to an irrigation channel that has been completely stretched around the Royal Capital, from there a Magic Tool which has been supplied to every household is used to pump out water. With the plumbing that's also been laid throughout the castle, every floor is able to use water which is drawn from a watering hole*. When water is added to the bathtub, it will be turned into hot water by a Magic Tool that generates heat. The toilet itself is a Magic Tool, it will automatically clean itself when you leave it. When any excrements are detected by the Magic Tool, it will be decomposed and washed down the sewers. Once the sewage water is collected into septic tanks outside the Royal Capital, it will be purified with a Magic Tool and sent back to the large river.」*[r2]

I see, it somewhat feels amazingly modern.

「Before I prepare the bath, do you have any other questions or anything you need?」

Something I need, huh?

Which reminds me I don't have any change of clothes.

My *dougi* is fine but, it hasn't been washed after it was worn yesterday, I'd like to be able to do the laundry if possible.

I'll try asking for it since I've got nothing to lose.

「If possible, a change of clothes.... Also, I'd like to wash the clothes I've worn so if I could get some soap too.」

Maid-san displays a complicated expression.

「A change of clothes... is, how do I say it. I can prepare a bathrobe but, the sizes of other clothing would be difficult... Although soap is provided, I do not mind washing it for you. Would you like to hand over your laundry to me?」[\[r3\]](#)

Size huh.... It's better than nothing at all. If the size is no good, underwear would be impossible I guess.

「Well then I'd like a bathrobe please. I can do the laundry by myself so it's okay.」

I'd feel sorry if I left the laundry to her.

「Certainly. Then I will go prepare the bathrobe. Please wait until the bath is prepared.」

Maid-san headed towards the bathroom after saying that, and shortly returned

The tableware and tea utensils, which I had finished using, were placed on the wagon, neatly cleaned the table and left the room after bowing.

Shortly after, Maid-san came back with a bathrobe and bath towel in hand, the preparations for the bath were being completed, while I waited I took my dougi with me and headed to the bathroom.

Before I entered the bathroom, Maid-san let out the words「Do you need any help?」which I politely declined, and went into the bathroom.

I remove my clothes in the dressing room, I fill the washbasin with hot water and do the laundry before washing my body.

After washing briefly, I wring as much moisture out as possible and left it in the dressing room.

I slowly submerge myself in the hot bath, while recalling my schedule which was full of trouble that happened in 1 day, I recover my fatigue.[\[r4\]](#)

Stepping out of the bath, I dry off my body, put on the bathrobe and returned

to my room with my laundry. While dragging along the hem of the bathrobe.

Maid-san, who was still on standby, bowed and said goodnight as she left, I decide to air my laundry in order to have it as dry as possible.

Finally, the 2nd day in another world has ended.

The time is already 12 koku. It's 0'oclock midnight.

I turn off the Magic Tool lamps inside the room (an ON・OFF feature was introduced 25 years ago), and went to bed.

In 1 day, one way or another it was incredibly busy, my body was taken over by drowsiness as I hoped for nothing to happen tomorrow.[\[r5\]](#)

Raw lines/words

1. お高いんでしょうね[\[return\]](#)
2. この城も配管を通してあり、水場ではそれを利用することでどの階でも水を利用してきます。[\[return\]](#)
3. 石鹼は備え付けがあるので使用していただいてかまいません。洗濯物でしたら渡していただければこちらでさせていただきますが？[\[return\]](#)
4. ゆっくりとお湯につかり、予定よりトラブルの多かった一日を思い出しながら、疲れを取ります。[\[return\]](#)
5. なんだかんだと慌ただしかった1日[\[return\]](#)

Chapter 24 ~ Before Breakfast

Chapter 24 – Before Breakfast

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~

「Mou, is it morning already...?」

Having awoken, I get up while opening my heavy eyelids.

The interior dimly emerges as the morning sun faintly shines inside the room.

So far my life's rhythm hasn't changed within these last 3 days.

Because I went to bed late at night I feel like I didn't get enough sleep, but if I were to lie down again I'm sure I wouldn't be able to sleep again.

Looking at my wristwatch, the time now is a little past 5 o'clock, the time which I usually wake up.

Laying my head down and recalling yesterday's events, I recognise this is one of the rooms within the castle.

While suppressing my yawn, I change my clothes.

Fortunately, since my change of clothes were thin summer clothing they have already dried. Because the summer sweater still feels a little wet, I leave it to dry.

As a result of the thick fabric, my *dougi* is only half-dried so I leave it as it is.

I wash my face then leave the restroom.

There is no paper manufacturing technology in this world.

When speaking of paper, it's usually bad quality parchment or animal skin. If I'm not mistaken, from what I recall within my knowledge, the so-called paper from my original world can be made using a plant fibre from a country far east.

However, the degree of it is just a rumor that I've heard, I don't have actual knowledge of it.

What I want to say, in other words, the story of what happens after we do our business.

Long ago, wheat straw and hay, plant leaves and the like that was soft were used.

However, it was changed when someone invented a magic tool which could perform a washing and drying function.

This so-called magic tool was named [「Bidet」](#).

It was around A4 sized in the beginning, but improvements were piled upon repeatedly 25 years ago, and now currently it's about the size of a pebble. Because of its small size, improvements were made again and the cost had dropped, thanks to this the magic tool was spread out domestically shortly after. Although it isn't to the point where everybody had one each, it's still very popular. It's an indispensable item for travellers too.

Which reminds me, in the beginning when utilizing my previous life's knowledge, unless I consciously thought to utilize it, information wouldn't emerge, but now if there was relevant information to what I'm thinking of, it would just pop up in my head. Is this because after coming to this different world, I'm directly in contact with the things related to my knowledge? Because I don't feel any demerit, I'm not dissatisfied, but still...

The time is still early, if this was Japan I would take a jog then have a shower, I'd make breakfast and a *bento*, but I'm inside a castle, although I'm a guest I'm still inside someone else's residence.

I doubt it's a good idea to wander around at this time.

I look at the room which has considerably brightened since I woke up. It's quite spacious.

Although I can't practice my form, there should be enough room to practice swinging. (*Sword swings*)

Should I practice swinging until maid-san calls for me?

「Good morning」

Finishing my practice swings, I wipe off my sweat as the maid-san from yesterday enters.

Since I heard the chimes of the bell a little while ago, it should be half past 6 now right? Un, should be right.

「Good morning. What should I be doing today?」

Last night, the King and the Prince wanted to reward me, was what they said

It's fine even if they don't reward me but, no one is prohibited to leave the castle. No, was it only prohibited yesterday? At any rate, there should be some relation to that.

For the time being, I should thank them for the night's lodging and meal, right?

Most likely because of this, instructions should've been given out to maid-san.

「Yes, breakfast has been arranged in the dining hall at 3.3 koku. The royal family will be joining you, is what I've been told. I have not been told after that.」

Still an hour before breakfast, right? That's plenty. However, together with the royal family huh, I'm not really willing to...¹

The way to read time is 1 koku equals to two hours so 0 o'clock midnight equals to 0 koku or 24 koku, 2 o'clock in the morning equals to 1 koku, 4 o'clock in the morning equals to 2 koku and so, every two hour interval increases koku by 1. As for the time between it, each 30 minute mark is divided, for example half past 6 in the morning equals to 3.1 koku, 7 o'clock in the morning equals to 3.2 koku, and 3.3 koku would be half past 7 in the morning.

To demonstrate time by unit, four 30 minute segments are in a koku, 1 hour is half a koku, -snip-, and 2 hours becomes 1 koku.

I felt it just now but, this information pops up into my head unconsciously. It seems that the contents of my knowledge, from 「Knowledge of my Previous Life」, appears to have practically become 「What I Currently Know」.

Could this be something like a correction after I got transported? Since I don't have to think of it each detail one by one, it's good because it's convenient but...

To use the time before breakfast effectively, I had maid-san make some tea and teach me what has changed in the past 25 years.

「Let me think... The me 25 years ago, though I say that, I hadn't been born yet so I don't know but... Even so, if you don't mind, I'll explain within the scope of what I know.」

This Maid-san, seems to be 19 years old. Even though we only have a difference of 4 years, she's over 170cm tall, her breasts are plenty big, at the level where you can call them huge breasts...

With my complex stimulated, depressed by the reality at hand, I listened to maid-san's story.

「Although there have been too many small details, I think those shouldn't be too different. To speak of the large changes, although I spoke of it last night, it's the water and sewer services. Regarding that, it's just as I talked about last night. Besides that, a trade with a distant country has newly begun, it's for a shipbuilding industry if I'm right. I've heard there's a trade partnership with an eastern and southern country. Rare goods are being imported, however because of the high price it's difficult to come across, is what I've heard. It seems from this trade, our shipbuilding technology was introduced by a southern country. Thanks to this technology, I've heard that the Western Great River is being used to easily transport baggage.」

Maid-san says,「That's the extent of which I know.」and bought it to an end.

I see, the parts which I'm familiar with hasn't seemed to have changed.

Nevertheless, because there are changes which maid-san doesn't know of, I can't understand the situation.

However... well, I'm relieved that my knowledge from 25 years ago hasn't

changed much.

If it was 25 years in Japan, there would've been huge changes. Like the [rapid economic growth](#) after the Second World War...

Thanking maid-san, the time for breakfast should soon be approaching while I was thinking of such things.

With a knock coming from the other side of the door, I hear a woman's voice.

It appears to be the guide to the dining hall.

Maid-san and I leave the room, and part with maid-san as I follow the woman.

The dining hall is on the 4th floor, which should be this floor.

The 1st to 3rd floor are the offices and halls, parlour and waiting rooms, from the 4th floor onwards becomes the upper class parlour and living spaces, is what pops into my mind.

After walking for a short while, the female guide stops in front of a door. We seem to have arrived at the dining hall.

I follow the female guide into the dining hall.

Notes

1. しかし王族と一緒にって、気が進みませんね...。
2. 時間半を半と4半刻と呼び

Chapter 25 ~ Dignity of the Royal Family

Chapter 25 – Dignity of the Royal Family

The other people haven't seem to have arrived yet.

I was guided to my seat but, it was an adult sized chair so I had to get lifted up to sit down. Please don't say anything.

The King and Prince have came as well when I sat down it seems.

As I greeted the two when they sat down, a waiter-san carried over the dishes.

Huh? The Prince should be the Second Prince if I'm not mistaken. Which means, there should be a First Prince. Which reminds me, there's only two of the royal family here, what happened to the rest?

「Excuse me, where are the rest of the Royal Family?」

「Hm? Ahh, that reminds me, I haven't talked about it. The First Prince is currently at the western country; Sandra. The Second Princess of Sandra is his fiancée you see. The purpose is to meet and learn about his fiancée's country. Was he returning in half a month? He's to be the next king. Well, you can call it studying abroad. The Queen and the First Princess have gone to our northern controlled area to recuperate, I've heard they'll be back in 2 or 3 days」

In other words, it means other than the King and the Second Prince, right now the others aren't in the castle.

「I understand, thank you」

After the King finished his talk, it's time to begin our meal I presume.

「We thank God and the Land for their blessings」「We thank you」
「Itadakimasu」

The King, the Prince, and me, subsequently.

For meal greetings, the person of the highest position recites a word of prayer, while the others chant in unison at the end.

Mine is a Japanese styled greeting.

This morning's menu is pan baked white fleshed fish, ryokuoushokuyasai salad, soup and brown bread.



Seasoned with only salt and herbs of course. ene

This is a typical menu in this world. Even for the Royal Family the menu doesn't seem to change much. However the ingredients are considerably high class...



In my previous life I used to work in the Royal Palace but, other than eating lunch and dinner together, it seems I haven't had breakfast together with them before¹.

This dining hall is for the Royal Family's use, a person not from the Royal Family can eat here if they're invited².
shirazakana no mushiyaki; baked white
fleshed fish. For a person other than the Royal Family, you can eat in your own room or a separate dining hall.

Today for me, because it's necessary to have a talk afterwards about a reward, it seems it's been decided that we'll have breakfast together

For that reason, including my previous life, it's the first time seeing what the Royal Family has for breakfast.

Incidentally, because this situation right now is irrelevant to my general life, nothing has come out from my previous life's knowledge even if I consciously

look for it. It appears the general criteria is, it has to be related to my previous self's everyday life, something like that.

After finishing breakfast, some after meal tea was served as the Prime Minister and Len-san arrive.

It seems these two people will be included in our conversation.

When tea was served to the Prime Minister and Len-san, the King began to speak.

「Firstly regarding Gildas, that guy has been put in prison for now. An interrogation has been arranged for the case regarding Raglia Or Schnade's relation to Lyle-dono's murder. Raglia Or Schnade had been restrained in his house last night, this morning, a report has come that he's been put into prison. Well, it seems Raglia Or Schnade had confessed when he was restrained. Just as Sakura has said, it seems Raglia Or Schnade had given the Prime Minister at that time, Sodom Caral Balshnia, the order. I've told people to investigate regarding the promotions at that time. Nevertheless, for Sodom Caral Balshnia, the Chivalric Order will go towards restraining him³. His territory is far away but, he should be restrained by noon. That's what has happened til now.」

It seems to have almost been settled during a single night.

It looks like it'll end earlier than I thought. Should I raise my evaluation of the King?

「And with that. Before SSodom Caral Balshnia has been caught, I want you to think about what you want as a reward. Since the money from embezzlement and smuggling was quite considerable you see. I'll hear it even if it's more or less unreasonable. In addition there's also Sedrim's part of the reward too. If you have anything you wish for, please say it.」

「Although I've said it last night, there's nothing that I wish for so there is no need for a reward. If I do need to wish for anything then please introduce me to an inn. Because I plan to become an adventurer, a cheap inn where a single female can safely stay in, if possible a clean inn where you can take a bath anytime would be good. Ah, please don't intervene with the inn fees. If I

untactfully associate myself with the Royal Family, it would be troublesome if others found out and could turn out badly.]

「Fumu, although I might be needlessly saying...⁴ However, you want to become an adventurer...? If necessary can help you search for employment, we could be a mediator you know? Rather, we wouldn't mind giving enough money to live and play around for several years... I've said so yesterday but, you've done enough to receive that much as a reward. Rather than asking for nothing, you don't need to hold back.⁵」

「The reason I'm becoming an adventurer isn't just to earn money. Well, it's to earn money but. I've come here from another world by chance, I'm a person who has gone astray. I want to return to my original world. I intent to become an adventurer for the sake of finding a way. Speaking of working, it's only a means to an end⁶. If I were to receive a large amount of money, I'd be troubled if some suspicious people would aim for it.」

If I accepted that much money while working as an adventurer, most likely, as blushed little girl who has gotten hold of a large sum of money would be a landmark for thieves to approach. Without saying, holding onto that much money, those type of people would boil from excitement⁷. A successful lottery winner would be killed, is what I've heard.

「Is that so... If that's the case, how about we prepare the necessary magic tools for your journey? Even if you don't want any money, it's still necessary for that right? To journey as an adventurer, don't you think you'll need money too?」¹⁰

Mu... That's right, the money in my possession totals up to 90 silver coins and 20 copper coins. It depends on the quality of the magic tool but, besides, it's necessary to have a change of clothing too. Certainly I'm lacking the funds even when I gather it all. Besides when it comes to magic tools, it's difficult to guess it's worth based on appearance. In other words even if I carry an excellent quality magic tool, it'll be difficult for it to be exposed.

I drag out the information about the essentials I need for the journey and roughly calculate the price.

I don't know the current prices but, the commonly used ones shouldn't have changed too much.

Other than the high quality stuff, it shouldn't exceed 2 gold coins. If it's only that I should have no problem.

「I understand. Then I'll kindly accept.」

It's a waste of time if I keep on declining their reward, this amount of gold should be within reason I guess.

「Well then the arrangements will be made. An order will be made concerning an inn as well.」

The King called out to a butler-like person and gave him the instructions.

「It should be prepared by noon. At any rate, until Sodom Caral Balshnia has been caught, no one will be able to leave the castle.」

What was that?

Until the former Prime Minister has been caught, I'll have to stay here?

No, rather, if it's the case of waiting til late afternoon, my adventurer registration and shopping will be...

「Please wait! I have a schedule too. We don't know if the former Prime Minister will certainly be arrested or not. What would you do if he wasn't caught!」

「Calm down. One way or another, it's been arranged that once Sodom Caral Balshnia's residence has been investigated, we will be contacted. At the latest, it'll end at 6 and a half koku (1:00pm). If we're unable catch him, we'll come up with something it at that time. At least until then, no one is allowed out of the castle.」

Muu, so we can't do anything until noon, is that what he's saying...

「...I understand. However, either way, if any news have come, I want to head out to town so.」

Until then I'll have to endure.

「I cannot say yet but... However, it's that. Sakura, even though you're before a King of an entire country, how do I say it, right, I don't feel much respect from you. It's not to say you don't have any regards⁸. Immediately retorting while shouting at me. Your attitude changes immediately when something doesn't suit you. Even though other people and the like are respectful. Which reminds me, it was the same yesterday. Well, I'm not worried about such things, but. Sedrim and Aria are like that too. Do you have our family's blood?」

「It's because I don't have any illusions of royalty. Besides, it's also because of my previous existence as Lyle Dist. Do you know? The reason why Lyle Dist became a royal court mage?」

On my 5th birthday, I remember I had a high fever thanks to the memories of my previous life emerging in my dreams.

During that one week, thanks to the nightmares I was having because of my fever, I saw Lyle Dist's life through my dreams. Among them, a portion left an impression on me, I'll sniff out a small portion of it and talk about it.

「Without any warning, Kyle-sama, ah, the king's father, am I right? It's correct right? Kyle-sama turned up at Lyle Dist's home and said,『Oi, I'll give you my daughter as your bride, so work on behalf of me』you know? The reason was he was looking for a retainer with ability because he was to become the king. Therefore I became his retainer. Lyle Dist refused, but he wouldn't leave unless he became his retainer, which was what he selfishly declared. Furthermore he followed Lyle around, other than following, he never helped and did nothing. Arbitrarily rummaging for food, occupying the bed, the only times he was docile was when it was time for food and when it was time to sleep, any other time he'll say nothing but『Be my retainer』. Well, he did hand over some living expenses, but. Thanks to that, neither magic studies or research could be done. On top of that, it continued for a month, in the end Lyle was beaten by his persistence and became the royal court mage. Ahh, he declined the marriage though. And so after becoming the royal court mage, the King moved around and did whatever he pleased. Lyle was forced to clean up after him time and time again. For

example, neglecting the accumulated piles of work, then leaving behind a note saying he's gone off to play at his friend's territory and he'll return in a few days. Another time he hid his status, went off to exterminate demonic beasts as an adventurer and ended up getting injured. And again on a different occasion, he sneaked out of the castle at night, went drinking in a bar until morning and ended up wasted. There were many more times in addition to that, and Lyle Dist to clean up after him every time you know?」

At that time, I was 5 years old when it was displayed as a dream, and it was planted inside my memory. The royal family had no dignity.

Well, there were other parts too, but they were exactly same, summing up what should be summed up, in its own way deserves respect⁹.

>ただ、王族と言うだけでは尊敬できるかどうかは別物だということは理解できました。

「While I'm talking about this, the mission to Serbatos Republic where Lyle Dist was killed. Originally, the minister in charge should've went.『It seems the daughter of Republic's representative has fallen in love with you. Don't you think it would be better if you went instead? Therefore you will go.』, was how Lyle was made to go by force.『It's a royal order』was what was told when he tried to decline. To begin with, expecting a 120 year old man get together with a mere 15 year old girl, what's with that?」

I take out bits and pieces of information about Kyle-sama from my previous life and explain to them. The parts which made me feel this way was, most likely, are the results of where I have a strong impression of and sympathise with it seems. No matter how much 「previous life's memory」 and 「information」 were imprinted, it's all inside a brain of a single person. Especially the parts that give me a strong impression, I believe it has influenced my personality development. I can't definitely say that it hasn't influenced me.

Lyle Dist is from the Elf race. He was 120 years of age when he died.

Although the Elf race remains a youthful appearance til approximately 100 years of age, they will slowly begin to age once they pass it, when they reach

their life expectancy they will become old and feeble.

The reason why Lyle Dist was called a 「Sage」 is because, with the long lifespan of an Elf, after spending many months and years on his research, he has an abundance of knowledge.

With the achievements of being a 「Sage」, Kyle-sama seemed to have invited him because of it.

And at his 120 years of age, he has an appearance of around 30 years of age.

But no matter how youthful he looked, a 120 year old and a 15 year old...

「In addition, that's right. I know of the King's childhood you know? He wouldn't have lost to Kyle-sama, don't you think? If it's necessary, would you like to see me talk about it? Well, I don't understand what happened after Lyle Dist died but, my knowledge of the Royal Family are based on two people.」

Looking at the King after speaking, shall I say, his expression looks like he's swallowed a bug.

Looking at the other's expression's, the Prince has a forced smile, or should I say he looks troubled, I mean. It's quite hard to express.

Len-san has his mouth opened, it's a *pokan*, would be the most appropriate expression. pokan face (°д°)

When I looked at the Prime Minister at the end, he left his seat with a *kirakira* expression, drew close to my side, and grasped my hand. *kirakira face*。*°+
。°・。・＼(*'Α,*)/

「My comrade...！」

Ahh, this person has also had his own troubles, *ne...*

Notes

- 仮に王族と食事をするにしても昼食か夕食のみで、朝食は一緒にとることは無かったようです。
 - この食堂は王族用で、王族以外が利用できるのは王族と一緒に食事をするとき

のみです。

3. ソドム・カラル・バルシニアだが、騎士団を拘束に向かわせた。
4. ふむ、いらぬと言ってもな…。
5. それに対して何もなし、というのは王族として示しがつかんだ」
6. それに働く、といつても結果的にそうなっただけでただの成り行きです。
7. 冒険者として稼いだお金ならそんな人も減るでしょうが、ぽつと出の小娘にいきなり大金を握らせるとお金目当ての強盗だとかが寄ってくる可能性があります。お金を持っていることを言わなくとも、そういった人はどこからでも沸いてくるものです。
8. 敬意を持て、ということではないのだが。
9. まあ、そういった部分もありましたが、他の部分ではそれなりにきっちりとしていましたし、締めるべきところは締めていたのでそれなりには敬意はあります。
- 10.「どうか…。ならばどうだろう、旅に必要な魔具を用意させる、と言うのは。いくら金が要らんといってもそいつたものは必要だろう？冒険者として旅をするならそれなりに金もかかると思うが？」

Chapter 26 ~ Speech

Chapter 26 – Speech

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I drink up my tea that has cooled, I look around the delicate atmosphere in this place and say; 「Well, it's because of that. Royalty, so to say, I can't respect them. Of course, I'll respect the people worth respecting.」

「In other words, I'm not yet deserving of your respect, is what you're saying?」

The King asks while expressing a wry smile.

「I can't say I don't completely respect you but. At least I don't currently know about you as a king... If I had to say, my impression of you as『Prince Lantis』is stronger.」

「In other words, it's just begun, is what you're saying?」

He murmurs out a sigh.

「If that's the case, what does this prince need to do to gain your respect?¹」
(needs editing)

The Prince calls out with a teasing tone.

「Let me see. The Prince only needs a little bit more, behave yourself towards women, if you can remember that, then I might be able to respect you, you see?²」

I remember yesterday, he teased me like this too³.

「That would be difficult. Even though it appears this way, I'm putting in great effort into it. Something like the inner workings of women, it might be impossible for me to understand it.」

With the sense of giving up, he raises both hands up in the air then returns them.

「Well, even though I'm royalty, I enjoy the feeling of being carefree and moving around as I please as a knight. It's been decided that my older brother will be the next king. It would help us if Sakura-san were to help him out. However, my brother is a bit troublesome so it's best to be careful. I wouldn't worry about Mother or Aria.」

Aria? I've heard that name not long ago right?

「Aria, you mean?」

「Ahh, Aria is my younger sister. Aria Isa Sobule. The first princess.」

A princess huh?

And the first prince is this family is quite unusual, it seems he's slightly obstinate. I should remember that.

Well, I probably won't meet them though.

I don't know if you're aware but, every noble in this world possess a middle name.

Although I say that, it's not like a Christian name, what it signifies is the child's rank.

「I」 is for the eldest son, 「AI」 is for the second son, and 「OI」 is for the third son.

In the case for girls, it's 「Isa」 for the eldest daughter, 「Asa」 for the second daughter, and the third daughter is 「Osa」.

For example, 「Sedrim AI Sobule」's case would mean, 「Sobule」's family's 「second son」, 「Sedrim」.

It seems this middle name is like a self introduction for which ranked child you are.

All members from a noble family will possess a middle name, those who don't have a middle name are commoners.

By the way, in the situation where those who get married, leave their homes or change their family name, their middle name will be changed as well.

In the situation for those who get married, for males their middle name will be changed to 「Somur」, for females their middle name will be changed to 「Limsa」. In the case of the King, his name 「Lantis II Sobule」 was from the period when he was still a prince, currently, 「Lantis Somur Sobule」 would be his proper name.

For those who leave home and are single, a 「Ro」 would be added to the end of their middle name. In the situation where Prince Sedrim leaves home, his name would become 「Sedrim Alro Sobule」.

For the retired grandpas and grandmas, they would become 「Caral」 and 「Corsa」 respectively.

「Your attitude towards royalty, would be because of Lyle-shi, I understand it as an influence from Sakura-san's previous life but, I wonder is your tone(*speech*) also influenced from your previous life? From your tone, it somehow feels like I'm talking to Lyle-shi...」 (*shi = master/mentor/teacher*)

Hearing about the behaviour of a former royalty, Len-san hesitantly asks.

「That's right, I underwent some influence. I speak like this in most situations. My forced smile and this tone can even deceive those unpleasant physiognomy types⁴. It's quite convenient you know.」 (*physiognomy is a way to judge a person's character from their face*)

Amongst my previous life's memories, there were sorcerers who used their powers on people, and malicious nobles. Because I was aware of the dark parts of human beings when I was a child, for a period of time I lost my trust in others, with the exception of my family. I came across this method of talking and a way to fake a smile at that time. Whenever I did it, adults would always say;「What a courteous child」, that's how I came to a realisation⁵. Although my master immediately exposed me.

I improved quite a bit when I was 7 years old but, this manner of speaking had already became a habit, even when I talked to my family and friends.

By the way, the foundation of my way of speaking came from polite speech. Expressing honorific speech is troublesome, in the first place, there's not many

people who I respect.

「I see... If it's possible, could you stop with that tone? I don't mind if you talk to me normally.」

It seems I'm making Len-san uncomfortable.

「Another way of speaking, I think because I've always done it this way, it's difficult. Besides, even Len-san addresses me in polite speech. Rather, shouldn't Len-san be the one who changes their way of speaking?」

「Uu, you can't change? My tone of speaking, well, how do I say it, because of Sakura-san's tone of speaking, no matter what I keep thinking that I'm talking to Lyle-shi... I know you're a different person, but no matter what...」

He scratches his head while speaking.

Is this like a conditioned reflex because of his trauma?

「Please get used to it. Well, after this we won't have an opportunity to talk so I don't think you should worry about it.」

「That reminds me, Sakura-san is planning to becoming an adventurer. If that's the case then the chance of us meeting will decrease...」
Rather than an adventurer and a royal court mage's chances of meeting decreasing, it's possible that we'll never meet again.

While talking, a considerable amount of time has passed.

Since the bell rang for 5 koku a little while ago, right now it should be 5.1 koku, or half past 10 right?

With this our discussion has ended, since I'll be called at 6.2 koku, I separated in order to head back to my room.

Notes

1. そういうことなら、私も王子らしいところを見せれば尊敬されるのかな？
2. そう、ですね。王子はもう少し、女性に対する振る舞い、というものを見えたたら尊敬

できるかもしれませんよ？

3. 昨日の1日を思い出し、こちらもからかうように言ってみます。

4. 嫌な人相手でも愛想笑いとこの口調で誤魔化せますし。

5. そうしておけば、大人は勝手に「礼儀正しい子」と認識してくれました。

Chapter 27 ~ Potential of Cooking

Chapter 27 – Potential of Cooking

When I left the dining hall, a woman guided me back to my room.

Since there wasn't anything to do after returning to my room, I put away my extra clothing that I left out to dry, the usual maid-san (it seems she's my personal attendant) carried over the tea utensils, and passed me some tea.

Since there's still an hour before lunch, although it's probably too late, I ask the maid-san for her name.

「*Ano*, although this is a bit late, is it alright if I hear your name? Ah, I'm Sakura Fujino.」

「So it's Sakura Fujino-sama. I am called Chiffon Isa Shbein. Please do just call me Chiffon.」

So says the maid-san as she bows. Chiffon-san, is it good to call her that I wonder?

「Chiffon-san, please just call me Sakura. Also, if it's possible, I would be happy if you could talk to me normally.」

It doesn't feel right when an elder talks to me in polite speech.

「Well then, Sakura-sama. However, I should not speak informally towards a guest of the Royal Family.」

「I'd like it if you were to stop with the『-sama』though... I'm not great enough to be called that way¹. Perhaps it can't be helped if you speak like that in front of others, though I'm being treated as a guest, I'm merely a commoner. I can't calm down if you speak like that...」

I think at least within this room.

「I understand. Let me have a little while to correct myself. But I'll still call you Sakura-sama, *ne?*」

Chiffon-san relaxes a little and smiles.

「However, it's only fair that Sakura-sama also speaks normally you know?」

「This is my normal way of speaking... I'm sorry.」

Somehow or another, I end up apologising.

With an *araara*, Chiffon-san expresses a smile. (*araara* is something like *oh my, oh my*)

What's this? After Chiffon-san changed her way of talking, somehow it's difficult to oppose her aura.

Although I'm not completely satisfied, I think we've opened up to each other more or less, I kill some time together with Chiffon-san until lunch.

What I understand from talking with Chiffon-san.

According to Chiffon-san's name, she's 19 years old and the eldest daughter of a noble. Currently she's learning about etiquette by working in the castle as a maid. And her Shbein family is a Marquis family, it seems she's the fiancée of a knight and will be working here until she gets married.

The noble's court rank, from top to bottom are 「Duke」, 「Marquis」, 「Count」, 「Viscount」, 「Baron」 then 「Quasi-Baron」, 「Duke」's are similar to the Royal Family's branch family. Essentially, 「Marquis」 is the highest rank for pure nobles.

「Quasi-Baron」 is a title given to individuals that earn special achievements, they receive the same treatment as a noble but it limited to a single generation. Just like a knight's rank, a noble's title is handled the same way.²

The basics of marriage in the Sobule Kingdom, it's usually separated between the nobles and the commoners but, marriages between a noble and a commoner isn't that rare. Actually, it's been said there's a custom for royalty and commoners to be married.

Once you're of age you can look for a partner³, generally a marriageable age

for a female is around 18 to 22 years of age, once they pass 25 years old, it seems they'll be referred to as *yomekiokure*. (*a woman who has missed the chance to get married*)

Chiffon-san has 4 little sisters and brothers in total⁴.

It appears that when I experienced an「unopposable aura」was because of this, in other words it was because of her「onee-san」position it seems.

After inquiring, it appears that the youngest (8 years old) sister gives off the same impression as me when she stands on her tiptoes to make herself taller.

Because of my claim that I was 15 years old surprised her, I explained, as per habit. Somehow I've gotten used to arguing back and forth.

After chatting about (?), in the blink of an eye it was time for lunch, Chiffon-san carried over the meal. (*?*) *in the raws*

Today's lunch is the usual brown bread with corn soup and cheese, chicken sauté and vegetables.



corn soup

This vegetable... could these be pickles? I bring it close to my face and it has an acidic smell.

With the exception of the brown bread and chicken meat, it's the first time

seeing these since coming to this world.

If it's general foods, my previous life's memory should have it. However, since coming to this world, every meal tasted salty and ordinary, after recognizing that I stopped questioning it.

Feeling that it's strange, I investigate my previous life's memory and...

I understand, it appears cheese and butter, wine and vinegar and the like, are luxury items and seasonings.

In my previous life, other than luxury grocery items (*alcohol, crisps, things*

consumed for taste rather than nourishment), I was mostly ignorant to things related to seasonings, never cooked for myself, the standard for meals was to eat out it seems.

Nevertheless when it came to cheese and butter, like my previous investigation [Information closely related to Lyle Dist's life will immediately come to mind.], seems to have been correct so it wasn't strange it immediately popped up in my mind.

Then why is it that information related to my meals haven't appeared...

My eating habits in Japan have left too deep of an impression on me, because the cuisines in this world are way behind, it's been sealed into the depths of my memory.

Perhaps it's necessary to re-investigate this world's ingredients and seasonings.

Since major ingredients are mostly the same from my knowledge and Japan, I'll recognise the herbs and spices. With the exception of seasonings such as salt and sugar, I'm unclear about the others.

Luxury items, alcoholic beverages such as wine and beer, side dishes such as cheese, and honey are what I've found.

The only beverages are alcohol, goat's milk, herb tea and water. There doesn't seem to be any cow's milk. I have no knowledge on beef either.

Usually, salt is the standard flavour in cuisines, besides that there's pepper and

a certain type of herb, it appears vinegar is only used to preserve ingredients⁵.

It'll be good to re-examine the seasonings from the market once more.

While enjoying the sensation of the fresh flavours after finishing lunch, the time is probably half past 12.

I have confidence in my biological clock so it shouldn't be off by too much.

I'm expecting the King to be calling for me for in a short while.

In order to leave whenever I start to gather my baggage

After putting away a bit of my baggage, the call had arrived.

In order to head out to town as I am, I take my baggage and leave the room.

Different from this morning, this time it seems Chiffon-san will be accompanying.

The guide this time is a butler-san

Following the butler-san, we enter a room on the third floor, could this be the King's office?

Sitting on a gorgeous sofa were the 4 members from this morning's conversation, standing on the side is a knight who I don't know.

「Come sit on an empty spot.」

Prompted by the King to an empty spot on the sofa, Chiffon-san stood behind me as I sat down next to the Prince, the butler-san who guided us here stood behind the King.

「To start off with what we talked about this morning, regarding what you wanted for your reward.」

As the King said so, the butler-san came over to me and handed me a rucksack and a pouch.

「These are what we considered necessary for your journey. Area expansion and lightweight glyphs have been applied on the two. There's a cloak within the

backpack, within the pouch there is an illumination magic tool and a cleaning-drying magic tool, ignition magic tool and a water collection magic tool, in addition there's also a boundary magic tool.] (*boundary = kekkai*結界)

Like the name suggests, the illumination magic tool is a magic tool that lights up the surrounding. The light has the range of a lantern.

The cleaning-drying magic tool has been explained earlier, it's the 「Bidet」 magic tool.

The ignition magic tool is essentially a lighter.

The water collection magic tool is a tool which collects moisture from the atmosphere and then gathers at the base of the magic tool. Water can be secured if it's used above a pot or water pouch.

The boundary magic tool spreads out a simple barrier which wards off beasts and low level magic beasts.

Any magic tool can make travelling considerably more convenient.

While confirming each of the contents within, a thin piece of gold was included.

「Ano, is this thin piece of gold supposed to be included?」

「That's a personal gift from me. It's from my own pocket money. A registration fee is needed to become an adventurer and you'll also need a weapon right? Keep it.」

Eh? It costs money to register as an adventurer? It's my first time hearing of it.

However if that's the case... Although I want to return it, it should be fine to hold onto it, it would be a shame to waste his good will.

I'm not upset about choosing a weapon and the registration fee you know?⁶

「I understand, thank you.」

I lower my head lightly while smiling a little.

When I raised my head, the Prince who is sitting next to me looks at me astonishingly.

Is it that much of a surprise for me to obediently receive it?

When I look at the Prince suspiciously, the Prince swiftly faces away from me.

That's somewhat creepy, isn't it?

「Next up is regarding the inn, it's an inn on the main street named『Migratory Bird』. From what I've heard it's a middle class inn, the price is reasonable and it seems it has a good reputation. I'll have Leirick guide you over. That's Leirick.」

I look over to see a knight standing by the wall.

The knight (Leirick-san) faced this way and bowed his head.

「Finally, regarding Sodom Caral Balshnia, we've been contacted that he has been restrained in his residence a short while ago. It's okay to leave the castle now.」

He's been arrested huh. With that there's no problem if I head out to town.

I should be able to register as an adventurer and purchase some supplies before the day is over.

「Really? Then after this there won't be any problems if I leave for town right?」

「Umu, I'll have Leirick guide you to the inn and the guild.」

Which reminds me, I don't even know where the adventurer's guild is.

「That would help. Well then, can I depart immediately?」

「Mm, ah, that's right. After this the Prime Minister and I have something to discuss, I won't be able to see you off...」

「No, I don't mind. Just receiving your feelings is enough⁷.」

Saying so, I stand up and carry the rucksack and the pouch.

「Well then I'll be leaving. Thank you for taking care of me.」

I say my thanks and bow my head.

When I head over towards the door, Leirick-san, Chiffon-san, Len-san and the Prince too, followed along.

It seems they're seeing me off.

I say my thanks to Chiffon-san while walking down the long corridor, heading towards the castle gates.

After arriving at the castle gates, Reirick-san and I face Chiffon-san, the Prince and Len-san.

「Well then, be careful. Let's meet again.」

「Please take care.」

「If you have any problems you need to talk about, please visit us anytime.」

Says the Prince, Len-san and Chiffon-san in order.

「Yes, thank you very much. If there's an opportunity later. Well then, I'll be heading out.」

I bow my head after finishing our farewells, I turn my back towards the Prince and the others and start walking with Leirick-san.

It seems on the third day of arriving in Alselia, my new life finally begins.

While pondering over my future life as an adventurer, I head towards the town.⁸

As the Prince sees them off,

「When there's an opportunity, huh? Perhaps I'll take that opportunity instantly.」

With the wind drowning out his mutterings, it never reached my ear.

all aboard!

Notes

1. そんな呼ばれ方をするような大層な人間でもありませんし。
2. 「準男爵」は特別な功績をあげた個人に与えられる称号のようなもので、扱い

は貴族と同じですが一代限りのものになります。騎士の階級によって与えられる爵位も同じ扱いらしいです。

3. 結婚自体は成人を迎えるべきですが
4. シフォンさんは妹や弟が合わせて4人もいるそうです。
5. ただ、料理の味付けとしては塩味が基本というか、他には胡椒や一部の香草しかなく、お酢も食材の保存にしか使われていないようです。
6. 決して武器や登録料で動搖したわけじゃありませんよ？
7. 「いえ、かまいません。お気持ちだけ受け取っておきます」
8. これからのことや、まだ知らない冒険者と言う生活について思いをはせながら、街へ向かいました。

Chapter 28 ~ Becoming an Adventurer?

~terms/things to know before reading~

Goualch ~ the lowest currency in Alselia, also known as a punctured copper coin. for those who don't remember, the currency goes from punctured copper coin > copper coin > silver coin > gold coin

Chapter 28 – Becoming an Adventurer

Right now, Leirick-san is guiding me as we walk down the Royal Capital's main street.

The stores and houses on the streets have a beautiful medieval European look with a movie-like atmosphere however, after Leirick-san gave an explanation, only the main street and to a certain extent some large streets are clean, if you head towards to the edges of the Royal Capital just a little, locations like the low-lying parts of the city are where it's difficult to say that it's clean, the public order in those types of places are poor, from what I hear.¹

While being warned not to go to those areas, I receive an explanation about the shops as we walk.

Street stalls start to stand out as we walk further from the castle, in addition the people have increased as well.

Because yesterday I was asleep when the carriage travelled through the Royal Capital, this is actually my first time seeing the Royal Capital. Because in my previous life I didn't come out to the Royal Capital that often, the only shops I knew about to an extent were sorcery and magic tool related stores and bars (the shops where I pick up Kyle-sama).

Summarizing what Leirick-san has said, the castle is in the west part of the

Royal Capital, surrounding it from the north, west and south are the noble's residences.

And a town spreads out from the east of the castle. High class stores are lined by close by the Royal Castle, stores and houses are build on the centre of the main street.

At the eastern edge of the Royal Capital, the public order becomes worse as you leave the main street, it seems one part of it has changed into a slum.

While looking at the street stalls and booths lined up on the main street, I follow Leirick-san while being careful to not lose him in the crowd of people, Leirick-san then comes to a stop in front of a building.

Looking up at the building, it's a building made of bricks that's around three story high, it has the words「Migratory Bird」, and a picture of a bird drawn on its signboard.

I confirm the signboard and look towards Leirick-san, Leirick-san opens the door and enters inside.

When I entered inside successively, at the centre was a dining hall, on the left was a counter, the interior seems to be the kitchen. On the right I see a corridor continuing onwards and stairs continuing upwards.²

There are some people inside the dining hall but it seems to be a slow lunchtime.

There are people drinking alcohol on the counter too.

Leirick-san approached towards the counter and talked to the man in the interior about something, the man then called out to me.

「Are you staying here *ojou-chan*? Where is your father and mother?」

I'm being completely treated like a child. It seems it's necessary to have a talk afterwards.」

「Is there an available room for one person? I'd like to stay for three nights.」

I also have plans after this.

Let's quickly end this conversation.

I have to peek my head above the counter in order to listen.

(The height of the counter is based on the average height in this world. It's 10cm taller when compared to Japan so in total it's approximately 120cm. From my height, only my head can be seen above the counter.) (*Sakura is only 136cm tall*)

「What do you need? Are you a customer? Rooms are available. 3 silvers for one night, meals are separate. Please say ahead of time if dinner and breakfast are needed. Dinner is 5 coppers and breakfast is 3 coppers. If you want lunch then request when the time comes.」

A man appeared from the direction of the kitchen and explained while looking at Leirick-san.

「The one who's staying isn't me. I'm nothing more than a guide.」

「Hm? Is this *jou-chan* possibly the customer? I don't mind if you have the money to pay but... It won't be troublesome *na?*」

He looks at me with a perplexed face.

「It's fine, I'll be the referrer if necessary. I am Leirick Marvrat, Imperial Guard of the Chivalric Order.」

「A knight, in addition a referral from an Imperial Guard, so it should be fine. I understand.」

It seems Leirick-san's purpose wasn't only just to guide me.

I've been slightly saved.

「Three nights please. I'd like meals for dinner and breakfast please.」

「That'll be 11 silvers and 4 coppers. On the occasion you don't need your meal, you need to say so beforehand. Your room is the third room on the second floor.」

Receiving the key, I have Leirick-san wait as I head to the designated room.

The room is midway through the second floor, inside the room is a table and chair, there's a closet and a bed as well. There's also a side table on the side of

the bed.

Opening the door at the inner part of the room, it appears to be the toilet and bathroom.

Since it's bad to keep Leirick-san waiting, I leave my baggage and went down to the first floor while only carrying my pouch.

After leaving the key to the room at the counter, I went together with Leirick-san to the Adventurer's Guild.

The Adventure's Guild wasn't too far from the inn, it was a large five story building too.

The words "Adventurer's Guild" and the name of the Imperial Capital, Sobulem, were written on the signboard. And is that a dragon? A crest depicting a sword and staff intersected like an "x" across a shield with a dragon drawn at the centre. Could this be the guild's emblem?

While looking up at the elegant building, Leirick-san says-

「Well then, I'll be heading back.」

Since his job as a guide is over, it seems he's going back to his original work.

「Thank you very much.」

After expressing my gratitude, I separated from Leirick-san and entered the Adventurer's Guild.

The first floor of the guild is the reception and a waiting-cum-coffee room, there's also a commission board.

There's a counter at the entrance after entering, a total of three men and women sat on the opposite side.

Behind the counter there is a door, it appears to be the staff room.

Tables are lined up on the right hand side of the entrance, on the left hand side along the wall is a counter, it appears beverages are prepared in the interior.

Could it be because of the time? There is no one at the tables.

There's usually a space to enter the interior on the right hand side of a reception counter, but from this position I don't see it.³

I head towards the receptionist lady at the right end.

「Welcome to the Adventurer's Guild. Are you making a request?」

The receptionist lady asks with a business smile.

「No, I'd like to register as an adventurer please.」

The receptionist lady smiles at my words.

「I'm sorry but, according to our rules, registration can only be done if you're above the age of adulthood for your corresponding race, otherwise it cannot be done. *Ojou-san*, you are from the Human race right? For the Human race, you must be above 15 years of age otherwise registration cannot be done.」

「Ah, then there's no problem. Because I'm 15 years old, please register me.」

The receptionist lady stiffened for an instant at my words, but immediately reverted.

「Umm, *ojou-san*? Are you really 15 years old? We will immediately find out if you lie you know? There are punishments if you lie in the registrations you know?」

How do I say it, these exchanges are getting...

「I really am 15 years old. Although my appearance is small, my words didn't contain a lie.」

At any rate, what do they mean by immediately finding out even if I lie?

「Umm..., even if you say that. No matter how I look at it, you don't look 15 years old...」

「Just then, you said you'll find out immediately if I lie right? Then isn't it fine if you confirm it?」

In the first place, I don't have any proof that I'm not lying, I have no proof other than explaining that I'm 15 years old.

「U-Uhh, although that can't be done unless the exam has been completed... But clearly we can't have a minor sit the exam either... I'm sorry, I can't make

this decision so. Please wait for a moment while I call my superior.]

Saying that, the lady entered the door inside the reception.

Because a gaze was felt on me, I look over and see similarly two receptionists, a man and a woman looking at me.⁴

In Japan, nobody acted surprised when I said my age but... As expected, is it because of the average height in this world?

Un? This world's average height is high = it's easier to grow in this world, you could say? No, it might be a racial thing... The average height of Dutchmen should exceed 180cm if I remember. If that's the case, then you could say my joy was short-lived...

While I thinking about a very important matter, a voice disturbs me.

「Are you the person interested in registering? I've heard that you're 15 years old but..., it certainly is difficult to judge. I see. Originally it's not allowed until after the exam but, I'll authorize it.」

This person is probably the boss. A 40 year old, how should I say it, an old man from a government office would be the best way to describe it. This man gives off that feeling.

Regarding the confirmation of my age earlier, it seems I've been given permission.

「Firstly let me explain. For the adventurer registration, before anything, some necessary information are needed to be confirmed first before the exam can be taken. The exam is to determine if you reach the minimum requirements needed for an adventurer, thereupon in the case where you pass, the registration will be completed⁵. The age is visibly clear at the time of registration however, in your case, your appearance hardly looks to be the age of 15. Which is why earlier we decided for you to go through the registration procedure⁶. However, a magic tool needs to be used for the registration, the cost is 1000 Goualch, 10 silvers is required. In this case, because you're doing the exam before registering, in the case where you fail the exam, the 1000 Goualch won't be refunded. If you don't

mind even after all that, we can proceed with the registration procedure, what will you do?」*(from what I understand, start of registration(age restriction) > exam > end of registration(age test))*

So it's 10 silvers? But I need to register here, in the first place it seems I'm not even allowed to do the exam⁷. I'm also curious about what the exam is...

「What's the exam about?」

It shouldn't be too absurd to ask about it before the registration. I'll do it just in case.

「The guild will assign one lowest ranking commission to do. Generally it's harvesting.」

It should be fine if it's only that much.

「Then please register me.」

I take out my wallet from my pouch and hand over 10 silvers.

「Well then, let's begin. Place your hand on this crystal and say your name, age and race. Also any noteworthy information like the weapons and techniques you specialize in, whether or not you use sorcery and so forth. It's fine even if you don't mention a weapon or sorcery, but it'll be advantageous at times when parties requests the guild to introduce individuals to them. When you complete that, prick your fingertip with a needle and drip a your blood here, a single drop is fine. Then the registration will be complete. Also, there will be a penalty if we discover you are lying and your registration will be cancelled, the 1000 Goualch will be forfeited, and you can never register with the guild again. If you acknowledge that, then place your hand on the crystal.」

I silently nod my head, and extend my hand towards the crystal placed on the counter.

「Sakura Fujino, 15 years old, Human race, no noteworthy information.」

Once I finished saying that, I held out the needle and pricked my left index finger.

With my blood puffing up and surfacing after pricking myself with the needle, I drip it on the indicated location.

「With that the registration has been completed. Until your card is ready, you can have some tea over there and wait.」

It was surprising how easily I completed it.

Following what I was told, I decided to have some tea and wait.

Notes

1. 雰囲気は映画などでよく見る中世ヨーロッパの綺麗な街並みですが、レイリックさんの説明を聞いてみると、綺麗なのは大通りやある程度大きな通りだけで、少し王都の端に行けば下町、というか清潔とは言い難い場所もあり、そういった場所は治安が悪いのだということです。
2. わたしも続いて中に入ると、中は食堂になっていて、左手にはカウンター、その奥が調理場になっているようです。そして左奥には先に続く廊下と上に続く階段が見えます。
3. 受付のカウンターの右側を抜けてその奥にスペースがありますが、今の位置からでは見えません。
4. 視線を感じたのでそちらを向くと、同じく受付をしていた二人の男女がこちらを見てきます。
5. その試験は冒険者としての最低限のもので、それで合格すれば登録、と言うことになる。
6. 先に登録の手続きをすることにする。
7. でもここで登録をしないと、そもそも試験すら受けさせてもらえないかもしれません。

Chapter 29 ~ Adventure Preparations

~terms/things to know before reading~ *women's lingerie edition – may not be accurate*

Mugwort ~



one of the various types of mugorts

kabocha pantsu ~ literally means pumpkin underwear, a type of underwear shaped like a kabocha squash.



kabocha squash ~ smooth lingerie with an appearance of a dress with straps hanging down from the shoulder to the top of the chest area. usually worn between underclothes and clothing to prevent chafing.

chemise ~ a type of short length loose fitting slip [\[pic nswf\]](#)

Chapter 29 – Adventure Preparations

Being served a cup of tea while waiting until my card is done, I think about my plans after this as I drink the herb tea.

I don't know what sort of exam it'll be, but first of all it's absolutely necessary for me to clear it.

Because the first commission should be harvesting, it seems I'll be required to leave the Royal Capital.

pantsuu

If that's the case then my departure at the earliest would be tomorrow, I'll use today to go shopping.

First should be clothes *ne*. There appeared to be several shops which had them on the way here.

I'll stop by and have a look while I return to the inn.

And then adventurer's tools and equipment.

Since I don't know where those stores are, I'll ask at the reception desk.

If there's still time afterwards, I'll take a look at the shops that sells general goods and groceries.

I wonder if there's enough time?

When I was thinking over my plans after this, my name was called out from the reception desk.

It wasn't the male boss, but the lady who received me at the beginning.

Going to the reception desk, the lady handed me a silver card.

「Sakura Fujino-san, this is an adventurer's card. Please press your finger on this section of the card. Your registration information will be displayed. Please show it to me.」

I pinched the lower right section of the card as I was told, what appeared from

the surface were the words-

「Sakura Fujino 15 years old Human race Rank: - Notes: 」.

While it was displayed, I held it towards the receptionist lady.

「I have verified it. Fujino-san, so you really are 15 years old *ne...*」

Didn't I say that from the beginning...?

「How do you find out if I lied from that? How does it determine it?」

Since I'm interested, I asked.

「The entries are the words you said from when you first placed your hand on that crystal, that crystal fills in your words onto the card. If those words contain a lie, the entry will be blank. And again, from the blood it received, it authenticates the person and analyses their age. Therefore, we'll immediately understand from the card if false information was given. It's required to have your card updated once every half-year. If it remains un-updated, the worst case is your registration will be erased.」¹

I see, that's a convenient magic tool *ne*.

「The registered information is shared by every guild on the continent. Therefore, the card can be updated by the guild in every town. This magic tool was introduced 10 years ago, the management of it is surprisingly easy from what I've heard.」

10 years ago huh. No wonder I didn't have it within my knowledge.

「Ah, and about the exam, is it okay if I hear the contents of it?」

I almost forgot.

「That's right, well then please receive this commission. The deadline is three days after you accept it, the content is harvesting Cebulj grass. The documents on Cebulj grass are filed on that shelf.」

A thin B5 sized wooden board was placed on the counter.

The commission's contents was written on the surface of the wood, 「Harvest: 10 of Cebulj grass Reward: 3 silver coins Time frame: 3 days Rank: F」

The Cebulj grass is a popular medicinal plant often used to treat wounds, it can even treat fevers if you boil the root and drink it. They inhabit around riverbanks and sunny areas. Their appearance is similar to a mugwort plant.

Because I have an abundant knowledge on herbs and grasses related to medicinal plants from my previous life, it's not necessary to look at the documents, but it would be better to pretend to have a look. Because the Cebulj grass is popular, it wouldn't be too strange if I knew of it, but I've only just registered. It's possible my actions will be seen by my surroundings.²

「Will you be accepting now?」

「Three days huh. Is it possible to accept it tomorrow morning?」

I'll lose one day if I accept it now.

「It's possible. Well then tomorrow morning, please come to the reception desk. And also, please hand over your adventurer card to me, we will take care of it until you pass the exam.」

Originally the card is given after passing the exam, in my case I was given it because of a false start. Because I have yet to pass, speaking of reasonable, it's justified.³

I handed over the card to the receptionist lady, while taking this opportunity, I ask about the things I thought of from the time I was waiting.

「Excuse me, could you tell me if you have any suggestions on any shops that sells adventurer tools and weapons?」

「Suggestions huh? U~n, let's see. If you immediately turn left after leaving here, there's a store for tools frequented by adventurers. In relations to weapons, on the street behind the guild in the direction of the Royal Castle, there is a store called 『Graham's Weapon Store』. I hear those have good quality.」

「I see, thank you very much. I'll try going ne.」

「Ahh, I think it's better to wait until you've officially registered before getting weapons and armor. Because with an adventurer's card, you'll receive a 10%

discount.]

I don't know how much a weapon costs, but it's a good thing I heard about this.

It's naturally better to economise even if it's a little.

「Ahh, is that so? Thank you for telling me.]

I'll go have a look at the weapons at least.

I leave the guild after saying my thanks and head towards the suggested tool store to start with.

When I entered the tool store, general goods such as cloaks, preserved foods and the like were lined up in my view.

Just looking through the abundant assortment of goods would take a considerable amount of time.

The current time should approximately be before 4 o'clock. The bell for 8 koku will probably ring very soon.

My wristwatch is hidden away in the pouch. I decided I'll only look at it when I need an accurate time. I'd be troubled if it gets stolen or broken.

Because I have plans after this, I search for the necessary items.

Given that I received a clock from the king, I search for preserved foods, a water bag, rock salt and a blanket.

Amongst the preserved foods are some dried fruits filled in a jar and pickles for pickling vegetables.⁴

I decide to settle the bill for the things I found just now for the time being.⁵

Oh no! I should've bought my backpack.

I only noticed after I received my purchases. It's not the food products since there's a few number of them, but the blanket is very bulky.⁶

Well, I originally prepared to carry it myself so the size isn't too large, but in my hands it's fairly large.

While I was troubled, I hear from the owner of the store that I can get it delivered.

It seems because the store closes after 10 koku, it won't be done before then.

I requested it to be delivered to Migratory Bird.

I say my thanks for their service and leave the store, next I head towards the weapons dealer.

As I proceeded along the route I was taught, a signboard came into view.

On the signboard was a drawing of a sword and the words「Graham's Weapon Store」.

I promptly enter.

Inside was overflowing with swords and bows, knives and armor.

As I gazed at them with interest, a person appeared from the interior.

「This ain't a place for children to come and play ya know? Hurry up and go home, *na?*.」

When I looked up, a bearded faced old man was looking at me.

His height should be within 170cm I think? A weapons dealer with an overall sturdy and a beard. Is he from the Dwarf race?⁷

「I'm not a child. I've temporarily registered at the Adventurer's Guild today. Although my exam is tomorrow, I'm only taking a look at the weapons today. That being the case, I'll be leaving in a bit.」

Saying that, the Dwarf old man-

「Temporarily registered you say? What're those bunch doing in the guild letting a child register? No matter how I see it ya ain't even grown up.」

I've become accustomed to these exchanges, or should I say I've gotten tired

of them.

「Even though it looks that way, I'm 15 years old. It's been confirmed by the Adventurer's Guild's card. I'll come back with the card after I've passed the exam.」

I can bring the card as proof.

It's troublesome to explain.

I decided to quickly leave for today.

Leaving the weapons dealer and returning to the main street, I search for a clothing store while I head towards the inn.

Because I came across a shop which seemed like one, I entered to have a look.

It wasn't very colourful inside, but clothes were lined up side by side. It seems there isn't much variety. Could this shop be a store for women? There seems to be underwear placed towards the interior.

I search for clothing in a size that fits me but they're all too big, when I look through the tunics, their lengths all end up around below knee level. Even the smallest size is the length of a miniskirt.

When I asked the employee-san, it seems the only size I can wear is for children.

Somehow I've lost all my willpower. From among those, I chose a dress, tunic and pants which were like hotpants as my everyday clothing.

Next I'll also need to pick out some lingerie and underwear.

For underwear, there were mostly drawers (*kabocha pantsu*), the rest were stringed panties (g-string) and loincloth-like underwear.

There aren't any typical elastic panties like there is in Japan.⁸

Could it be, that is to say creating elastic is still impossible for this world's technology?

For lingerie, I purchased a number of chemise type slips.

For bras... how should I say it, there wasn't any bras without a cup attached.
(eg; sports bras)

There are cloths to wrap around, or should I say it seems like that's the only way.

I purchased a number of them just in case.

Lastly, I purchased the tunic from the beginning to substitute as pajamas.

The materials of the underwear, lingerie and the tunic used as my sleepwear are cotton, with the remaining being hemp.

With that, my change of clothing is good.

Finishing paying, my baggage has increased once more, so I decide to return to the inn.

Placing the increased baggage in the inn, I once again head out to go shopping.

I ask a person from the inn about a general store and shoe store.

I have a considerable amount of time and money left to use.

The current time should be before 6 o'clock, luckily it seems the general store and shoe store are close by.

The remaining money on me is 1 gold, 15 silvers and 6 coppers, and also 3 punctured coppers First, I'll go to the shoe store.

Because made-to-order seems to the standard, I had them to make leather shoes and boots.

To measure my size, they took a pattern of my foot and that was it.

It seems it'll take approximately 5 days to complete.

Since I'm done with the shoe store, next is the general store.

The general store has various miscellaneous goods.

Daily use general goods and accessories, things like decorations are abundant.⁹

Only just lightly looking around, several things have attracted my interest.

It would be interesting to carefully look around, however I decide to do it another time when I have the time.

For now I'm purchasing cloths to serve as a towel and scraps of disposable cloths, several ribbons to tie up my hair, wooden bottles to put spices in and cooking tools and utensils such as cutlery.

Though I say cooking tools, it's just a pot and a frying pan.

And with that, today's shopping comes to an end.

When I returned to the inn, the sun has already begun to set, could the current time be around 7 o'clock?

After requesting dinner, I place the baggage in my room while I wait for my dish to be cooked.

When I returned to the dining hall, as one would expect, the tables were mostly occupied during dinner time.

Because I'm by myself, I sit at the counter, immediately my dish was carried over and I started to eat.

The menu isn't very brilliant in this world.¹⁰

I think I miss rice and pasta. I'll try to make it soon since I have all the ingredients.

Finishing my meal, I return to my room.

While arranging the purchases from today, I remembered the thing about the bath.

Because there isn't a bath included in the room, there should be a public one.

Heading back to the dining hall which I left a moment ago, I ask about the bath.

It seems you need to place a reservation in advance for the time you want to

enter the bath.

Luckily, because it's currently available at this time, I decide to enter immediately.

I grabbed my lingerie, underwear and the tunic substituted as pajamas that I purchased today, then went towards the bath. A cloth to dry the body seems to be complimentary from the inn.

After taking a bath and washing off the sweat from today, a person from the inn called out to me as I was returning to my room.

It appears a package addressed to me has arrived from the tool shop.

Which reminds me of the delivery I requested.

I received the blanket and returned to my room.

I wrapped a cloth substituted as a towel (I'll just call it a towel because it's troublesome) around my hair, then continued to arrange the baggage.

I pack the baggage into the rucksack and pouch respectively, I can carry it once again.

Ooh, it's light.

Its own weight isn't the same as the items I put in, but as expected of a magic tool prepared by a King.

I think it's thanks to the effect of the lightweight-ification. Isn't this rucksack a considerably high level item...?

I take out a tunic and pants from the baggage for tomorrow's change of clothes.

With that, the preparations for tomorrow are complete.

I turned off the lights in the room and went to bed, I fall asleep while thinking about tomorrow's exam.

~

Author's note:

Today's update has ran off course considerably.

The character doesn't move well. (?)

The settings for clothes and the like were referenced from around 14th century Europe, but various changes will be added when there's an opportunity.

Please think of it as that sort of setting.

今日の更新分はかなり迷走しています。

うまくキャラクターが動きません。

服などの設定は14世紀前後のヨーロッパを参考していますが、色々とご都合主義的な変更を加えています。

そういう設定、と思ってください。

Notes

1. 「最初に水晶に手を当てて項目を言葉にしてもらいましたが、あの水晶で言葉をカードに書き込んでいます。言葉に嘘があれば、その項目は何も表示されません。また、血を頂きましたが、血の成分で本人の認証と年齢の分析を行っています。ですので、もし偽証などがあればカードを見ればわかるようになっています。カードは半年に一回の更新が義務付けられています。更新がないままで、最悪は登録の抹消となる場合があります」

2. ハーブや香草、薬草に関しては、前世の知識に豊富にあるので資料を見る必要はありませんが、振りだけでもしておくほうがいいでしょう。セブル草は一般的なものなので知っていてもおかしくはありませんが、わたしは仮登録したばかりです。そのあたりの行動も見られているかもしれません。

3. 本来はカードを作るのは試験に合格してからなので、私の場合はフライングで作ったことになります。合格するまでは渡してもらえない、というのも当然といえば当然です。

4. 保存食の中には果物を干して瓶に詰めたものや、野菜を酢漬けにしたピクルスなども置いてあります。
5. とりあえずそういうものは、今度見ることにして会計を済ませます。
6. 食料などは数が少ないこともあり、それほどではありませんが、毛布がかさばります。
7. 身長は170cmないでしょうか。全体的にがっしりした身体に髭面で武器屋さん。ドワーフ族ですかね？
8. ゴムを使った日本で一般的なショーツはないようです。
9. 日用雑貨や小物、装飾品など種類豊富です。
10. それなりの重量のものを入れているはずですが、さすが王様が用意してくれた魔具です。

Chapter 30 ~ Registration Exam

~fumu to know before reading~

fumu ~ a murmur indicating approval or something like “I see”, sounds like hmm

Chapter 30 – Registration Exam

「Good morning. I came for the registration exam.」

Currently it's a little bit before 8 o'clock in the morning.

I'm at the Adventurers' Guild's reception desk.

I woke up at the usual time and adjusted my morning preparations.

I'll become an adventurer if I pass today's exam. I think I'm in a little high spirits myself.

Being still too early for breakfast, I ran through the main street with hardly any people as the day has only just begun.

Running through the clear morning atmosphere, I returned to the inn to wash off my sweat, I had arranged to go out until the time for breakfast.

Finishing my breakfast slightly earlier, I grabbed my baggage and departed for the Adventurers' Guild.

Compared to yesterday, the Adventurers' Guild has a considerable amount of people gathered in the morning.

Almost everyone are having friendly conversations at the tables while drinking tea.

Then there are several people that are having a staring contest with a wall near the interior.

Could the commissions be posted on that wall?

There are people going back and forth between the wall and the tables.

Probably the people going towards the wall are searching for a commission, while the people at the tables are waiting.¹

There were several people by the reception desk, but the right end of the reception desk was empty.

It's the lady who served with me yesterday.

When I reported that I came to take the exam, the other adventurers at the reception desk all gathered their eyes on me.

Their eyes all spoke「What's this child doing?」, ignore it, ignore it. Time is precious right now.

「Yes, here is the commission for your exam. Please ask if you have any questions.」

Handing over a wooden board, it's the same Cebulj grass harvesting commission from yesterday.

「Is there a map of the Royal Capital's outskirts?」

I more or less have knowledge on the Royal Capital's outskirts, but the area might have changed from 25 years ago till now. I'll be able to verify some details with an up-to-date map, so there wouldn't be any disadvantage in having one.

「Here is a map on the Royal Capital's outskirts.」

In front of me was the Royal Capital and its outskirts finely drawn on a parchment. *Fumu fumu*.

「Am I able to purchase this map?」

「For a map of the Royal Capital's outskirts, if you haven't been officially registered as an adventurer, then it can't be purchased.」

After passing the exam huh?

「I see. Well then, please start the exam.」

Now, this will be my first step into becoming an adventurer.

「Ok, well then, this wooden tag will verify yourself as being under examination. Please be careful not to lose it. When you leave the town, you can show this wooden tag and it will substitute as your credentials. Please return the wooden tag once you've completed the commission.」

Which reminds me, I was asleep when I entered the Royal Capital and I didn't receive an inspection.

If I were to show this wooden tag at the inspection, it could be called a free pass?

「Well then, I'm off!」

After listening to several important points, as the voice of the receptionist lady saying 「Take care」 was heard, the surrounding adventurers all saw me off with a dumbfounded look in their eyes as I left the guild.

I left the town on foot just as I left the guild and headed towards the location where Cebulj grass grows according to the map.²

I had an argument with the soldiers at the inspection when I left town but, particularly the back and forth arguments which hasn't changed for the better, so I'm leaving it out.

The current time has just passed 9 o'clock in the morning, if I trust the reduced scale of the map, it should be around two hours until I reach my destination.

From the stories I hear, it's been said there shouldn't be any beasts and demonic beasts in this area. Occasionally, it's possible that beasts will be sighted, however, there are knights regularly patrolling the Royal Capital's outskirts and in the vicinity of the main highway so if there are any eyewitness reports, the knights will go exterminate them, because of that it seems to be relatively safe from what I've been told.

Moving along while enjoying the scenery, I arrive at the area of my destination.

It's a small and shallow river bank, a forest can be seen slightly ahead of me
Immediately, I start searching for Cebulj grass and I find a single stock of grass
which seems like it.

I approached to identify it, and there seems to be no mistake. I immediately
GET one. (*get is in english*)

Using a fallen branch, I dig up the root and brush off the dirt.

I put it away in a small bag used for storage and continue with my search.

While walking to the embankment, the collection of Cebulj grass was going well, it was already 12 o'clock by the time I collected all 10 roots for the commission. Because I ate breakfast earlier than usual, my stomach's abating condition is at its peak.³

Mu, it's too late now that I notice.

The food I have are nothing but preserved food (dried meat and brown bread).

I would've been better if I had bought something before I left town.

Once I'm finished with dried meat and brown bread for lunch, I'll return back to town to report my commission's completion.

Finished with my simple lunch, my ears pick up a noise which sounds like something pushing through the grass as I was about to return to town.

I hear the noise from across the river.⁴

I take out my *bokutou* from my baggage while being vigilant, a figure of a wolf appeared from the riverbank.

I surveyed the surroundings, however there didn't seem to be any signs of other wolves.

Could this be a lone wolf that strayed from the pack?

An event appearing without any warnings on my first commission, is this what you call a cliché?

While thinking about that, I threw a handy stone to divert it⁵. However, it easily avoided it, it seems it made an opposite effect and agitated it as a result.

「Gurururu」

The wolf glares at my direction while raising a growl, and instantly began running.

It crossed the small and shallow river, that even a child could cross, without any difficulty.

I shifted my body as the wolf leapt in my direction, aiming at the wolf's stomach from the side, I swung my *bokutou* from below with all my strength.

With the feeling of striking flesh transmitted into my hands, the wolf let out a 「Gyaun!」 cry whilst being blown away, I felt a sense of unease from the power of the strike.

My strength isn't very strong, it's difficult for me to deal a large amount of damage, rather, I think it's impossible to begin with. I have the *qigong* technique to supplement for that, but without it I'll have considerably less strength than a woman in general society, it'll be difficult for me to deal anything resembling damage from my blows.⁶

But despite that, even though *ki* wasn't used in that hit just now, I seemed to have caused some visible damage.

Come to think of it, from the times when I ran this morning, when I walked up until here, and again when I was walking with the packages from shopping yesterday, I have a feeling I've been rarely getting tired compared to the time I was in Japan.

Could something have changed since coming to this world?

「Gurururu」

My awareness returned after hearing a growl approaching, the wolf got up while staggering a little and glared at my direction.

I corrected my grip on the *bokutou*, when I prepared my front and took a step forward, the wolf took a step back, glaring at each other for a short while, it subsequently escaped.

I kept up my vigilance until I judged the wolf had completely ran away, after a small period of time after the wolf had gone, 「Waa...」, I relaxed my guard together with a sigh.⁷

「I should report this to the guild for the time being *ne*.」

Although there's no need for this kind of cliché development...

I once again breathed out a sigh, pulling myself together, I began to walk towards the town.

「I've just returned~」 (*tadaima modorimashita~*)

It's before 3 o'clock in the afternoon, there's very few people compared to this morning, I went towards the reception desk, took out the Cebulj grass and placed it on the counter.

「Welcome back.」

The receptionist lady greeted me while verifying the items.

「Yes, I've verified all 10 Cebulj grass. The commission has been completed. Well then, here is the reward for 3 silvers. Thank you for your hard work.」

I receive the reward handed out, in return I handed back the wooden tag I had received.

「Your exam has been passed, *ne*. In which case, Fujino-sama, here is your adventurer's card. Please verify it.」

It's only been one day since I verified the card, however one entry is different from the contents from yesterday's verification.

「Rank: F (1)」

It's changed from yesterday's 「Rank: -」.

「This time formally, welcome to the Adventurers' Guild. Although I've explained about the card yesterday, let me give you the explanations regarding

the other things.

Firstly, it's an adventurer's responsibility to take at least 1 commission per month.

In addition, in the case where the town or the outskirts of the town you're staying are attacked by demonic beasts, you're obligated to participate when the guild calls for a subjugation. Without any special reasons, if you're unable to accomplish your obligations, your adventurer's rank will be downgraded one rank as penalty.

Next is about the adventurer's ranking, the highest rank is S, after that it's separated from A ~ F. Fujino-sama is currently F rank.

Each commissions give points according to their rank, you're able rank up by accumulating these points. For example, thirty points are needed to rank up from F rank to E rank, which is equivalent to thirty F rank commissions. Your current points are displayed on your card following your rank.

You can only accept commissions with the same or one rank above your own rank, basically F rankers can only take up to E rank commissions.

Additionally, in the case where you accept a party commission as an individual, you must be one rank above the commission's rank, so please be careful.

Finally, because your adventurer's card is also your personal identification, please be careful not to lose it. It can be reissued in the case you lose it but, there will be a handling fee of 2000 Goualch if you do so.]

Fumufumu.

「That is all, do you have any questions?」

「Ah, how do I accept commissions?」

「Yes, there are commissions written on wooden tags hung on the wall in the interior to my left, if there are any commissions you'd like to take from amongst those, please bring the wooden tag over to the reception desk. When you do so, please also hand in your adventurer's card together with it. Once it's been accepted, the commission will begin. If you cancel it midway or pass the deadline, the commission will be failed, 10% of the reward will be collected as penalty so please be careful of the deadline at the time you accept it.」

Were people gathering up this morning because of this?

Fumu, while accepting commissions in this town for the time being, I'll be able to earn funds for my journey it seems.

Otto, it wouldn't be good if I don't report about the wolf *ne*.

「Umm, this isn't a question but, it happened at the time I was harvesting Cebulj grass by a small river at the northeast of the Royal Capital, I encountered a wolf just before returning.」

「A wolf? Are you injured? And, how did you defeat it?」⁸

「No, I only drove it away. I'm not injured either. It was only a single one which had separated from the pack, it appeared out in direction of the forest. I thought to report it just in case.」

「Oh I see. What matters is that you're safe. I'll report the matters of the wolf to my superiors.」

「Then please. Well then, I'll be leaving *ne*.」

Now then, now that I've become an adventurer without any problems... I should go back to the weapons store from yesterday.

Fufufu, with my adventurer's card verifying my age, I can go without the troublesome explanations.

Now, this will be my revenge for yesterday.

Notes

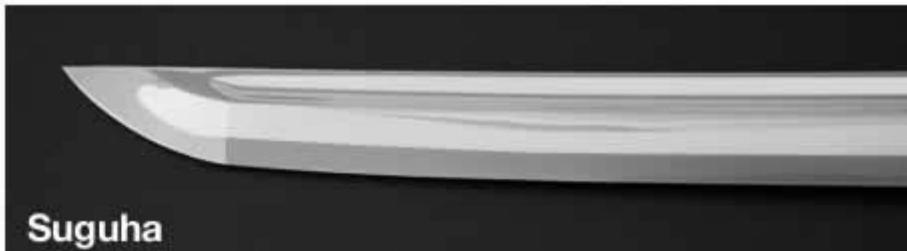
1. 壁のほうにいる人は依頼を探して、テーブルにいる人はそれを持っている、という構図でしょうか。
2. ギルドを出た足でそのまま街を出て、見せてもらった地図にあったセブル草が生えていると思われる場所に向かいます。
3. 朝食を早めに食べていたこともあり、お腹の減り具合はピークです。
4. 音はどうやら川を挟んだ向こう側から聞こえます。
5. そんなことを思いながら、牽制として手頃な石を投げてみます。

6. 気功術でそれを補ってはいますが、それがないと世間一般の女性よりもかなり非力な私では、打撃による有効打というのは難しいのです。
7. 逃げて行ったほうを少しの間、警戒しながら見ていたわたしは、狼が完全に逃げて行ったと判断すると「はあ...」と溜息とともに力を抜きました。
8. 「狼、ですか？ 怪我はしませんでしたか？ それで、倒したんですか？」

Chapter 31 ~ Something Desired

~things to know before reading~

hamon ~ the temper pattern along a blade's edge



iai ~ a technique of attacking as you draw your sword from the sheath, then sheathing it afterwards(?) **kesa** ~ a diagonal slash, specifically a diagonal downward slash following the line of the cloth worn across a Buddhist monks upper body

Author's note:

A rather short one.

Chapter 31 – Something Desired

~

~

「This, is it okay if I touch it?」

「Be careful.」

When I tried holding it, it gave off a heavy and weighty feeling. I take a stance while it's still in its sheath.

Although it's my first time, I have a sense of familiarity.

「Can I try pulling it out?」

Garum-san confirms with a nod, not being made to stop, I pull it a little out from the sheath.¹

「*Tsu*」

A beautiful *hamon* on single edged blade appeared from within. Master had only once shown me a genuine one, this has an identical feeling to that.

At once, I returned it to the sheath and let out a huge breath after holding it in all this time.

「Excuse me, is it okay if I swing it for a moment?」

While being a little excited, Graham-san confirms.

「Mm, this place is narrow don't ya think. There's a place at the back if ya want to swing it. Follow me.」

Being guided by Graham-san, we reached a courtyard-like area behind the shop.

「It'll be fine if it's here.」

With a nod from Graham-san, I began from an *iai* stance and drew. Following a *kesa* swing, next I put down the sheath and swang it several times with both hands.

It's my second time swinging a real sword, however, at the time when Master previously let me hold one, I'm sure the best I could do was swing it. To say nothing of handling a katana, I only have memory of swinging one.²

Although the length of this blade is shorter, is the difference only in the appearance?

I considered this at the time when I fought the wolf but, has my physical strength been increased since coming to this world? From the fact it's been difficult for me to feel tired, it may be possible my own physical strength has risen.

Briefly finishing my swings, I sheath the katana and return to the store.

「This, how much is it?」

I asked Graham-san as soon as I returned to the store.

「*Uun*, honestly, this sword was from a merchant that came from the east, it's something I procured because it's an unusual weapon. It's a little expensive ya know? Let me see, including the discount from your card, it'll be 35000 Goualch.」

Saying 35000, isn't that 3 gold and 50 silvers!

「*uu*, no matter how much I try right now, I can't buy it...」³

「Well, it's a little bit too expensive for a novice adventurer *na*. With an objective, you'll have fighting spirit, isn't that right? Well, you just need to do your best to earn money.」

「Saying such a carefree thing, what will I do if it gets sold?」

「Even if you say that, unless you can pay, you can't buy, don't you think? I'm not telling you be relieved but, I won't sell it to a fella who doesn't have the intention to use it *yo*. Even if they have the intention to use it, I won't sell it

either if the fella can't handle it. That's the rule of this store.]⁴

In other words, unless a person who can handle the katana purchases it, it'll remain unsold.

「I understand! I'll do my best to earn money! Ah, for today I'll buy this and, this knife. How much are they?」

It was one of the knives lined up when I first came to the store, I chose it for combat use and to strip off raw materials.

「All together it's 1500 Goualch, it'll be 15 silvers.」

「Here you go... Well then, once I've gathered enough money, I'll come back again.」

Receiving the knife in exchange for the payment, I leave the store.

Ahh, if I hadn't found out about it then I wouldn't have desired it...⁵

Having left Garum-san's store, I immediately turn back to the Adventurers' Guild.

When I arrived at the guild, I immediately head towards the receptionist lady's area as usual.

「*Onee-san*, what's the best thing to do to properly earn money efficiently in a short time?」

Although the receptionist lady was surprised at my question, she still answered.

「Eh? *Etto*, is that so, it depends on the amount of money but... As expected, accepting subjugation commissions is the fastest, is what I think. Other than that, escort commissions have many high rewards. However, subjugation commissions and escort commissions are D ranked, because of that, Fujino-sama cannot accept them. Therefore firstly, it's essential that you increase your adventurer's rank.」

Haa..., as expected, there doesn't seem to be a quick way to earn money.

To start off with, my maximum priority is to become an E rank *ne*.

I say my thanks and leave the guild, then return to the inn.

I decide to do my best with the commissions from tomorrow onwards...

Notes

1. ガラムさんが頷くのを確認し、息がかかるないように止めて、少し、鞘から抜いてみます。
2. 真剣を振るのは二度目、ですが、以前師匠に握らせてもらった時は振るだけで精一杯だったはずです。刀を扱うどころか振り回されていた記憶しかありません。
3. 「あう、今のわたしじゃ逆立ちしても買えませんよ...」
4. 「そうは言っても払えるモンがなきゃ買えねえだろう。安心しろ、とは言えんが使うつもりのない奴には売らねえよ。使うつもりがあっても使えない奴にも売らねえ。それがこの店のルールだ」
5. ああ、知らなきゃ欲しがらずに済んだのに...。

Chapter 32 ~ I Don't Really Understand

~things to know before reading~

savate ~ a type of French kickboxing, the author is probably referencing to one of the popular moves in savate instead of the sport, a spinning/rolling kick.

maybe~



taiikuzuwari ~ literally means “physical education sitting”, a way of sitting in PE class.



Chapter 32 – I Don't Really Understand

It's been half a month since then, every day I continued to accept commissions.

I go to the Adventurers' Guild first thing in the morning, from the commissions that can be completed in one day, I choose the ones that give the most rewards.

From harvesting commissions like the one I did in the exam, to various DIY-like commissions downtown.

Because at times I finished in half a day, I'll again accept another commission on those occasions.

Amongst the various commissions, there was one to be something like a waitress at a newly opened coffee shop. Although I was bound for three days, the reward was nice so I accepted it but...

It's that. The shop was similar to the so-called maid cafes.

I heard one of the opening staff suddenly couldn't make it or something like that, so it seems it was an emergency recruitment but...

Of course, because it's that kind of coffee shop, they had uniforms, however, even the smallest size based on the standard of this world's women didn't fit. With me in a pinch, there was neither time or labour to prepare a specially ordered uniform. Even though it was too baggy no matter how you looked at it, I had to put on the maid clothes that didn't fit and run desperately around the store.¹

The lengths of the other waitresses' skirts were near their knees, and yet even after doing my best to pull it up to my waist, the length just enough to not touch the floor. I had to desperately try not to step on the hem.

According to what the manager said afterwards, that appearance was very popular. A child that appeared to be trying to desperately help or something...

Maa, I received an extra reward as the result of attracting customers, since I received more than usual it was all right in the end...

Additionally, because I accepted a few E rank commissions, I should be able to rank up very soon.

The money I have saved up is now 1 gold and 40 silvers!

.....I still have a long way to go...

The commission I accepted today is an E rank harvesting commission, named Ceribsa grass, it's a medicinal plant that's quite hard to look for. Ceribsa grass are very effective against external wounds, it can also be a powerful painkiller and healing medicine if you boil and drink it, it's a medicinal plant similar to a strengthened version of Cebulj grass from the time of the exam. However, the requirements of its habitat are severe so its recognised as an expensive medicinal plant.

Although it's difficult to search for this medicinal plant, I have powerful ally.

Right, my previous life's knowledge!

I happen to know of the several places where Ceribsa grass could grow.

This commission rewards 15 silvers for every 1 Ceribsa grass, if I'm able to come across several of them then this will be very delicious commission.

Immediately, I begin to walk towards the locations I have knowledge of.

I did it! There's so many!♪

From the locations Ceribsa grass were considered to grow, I had visited three which I had knowledge of and gotten six Ceribsa grass. That would be 90 silvers with just these.

Currently, I'm deep within a forest northwest of the Royal Capital, the same forest where I encountered that wolf from the time of the exam.

Because there aren't usually beasts which attacks people, after that wolf had gotten exterminated, the forest is now safe.

Right, of the several places I had knowledge of, the depths of this forest was

one of them.

Therefore, after I finish harvesting, I'll travel to the next destination.

Once leaving this forest, at a location approximately five kilometres north, there will be a slightly steep slope, descending down that slope then moving a little northwest will be the next location I have knowledge of.

The sun has gone down considerably, it's becoming dim within the forest.

Looking at my wristwatch, the time currently is 5 o'clock pm.

Although I have a camp prepared, I'd like to lie down on a bed if possible.

I hurry myself up a little.

Walking towards the outside of the forest, a light could be seen between the trees.

Could it be other adventurers...?

Being a little curious, I walk towards the direction where the light is.

Taking a closer look, it was small open area with a cabin built on it.

Could it be a hunter's cabin? The light was leaking out from in there.

After I confirmed the source of the light and was about to walk away from cabin, a man appeared from within.

The man with a bad character looks around restlessly in front of the door, after surveying the surroundings, he discovers me in an instant. Making a surprised expression, he then puts on a suspicious expression and begins questioning.

「An? Who is it..? Oi, *jou-chan*, what are you doing here?」

His character seems bad for a hunter...

「*Etto*, I'm an adventurer. I'm in the middle of a commission right now. While walking in the forest, a bright-「An adventurer!? Shit! Have we already been found?」」

What's this? Crying out all of a sudden.

「Oi, come out! It's an adventurer!」

The man shouted towards the interior of the cabin, four men carrying weapons then came out from within.

The men who came out surveyed the surroundings, after looking at me, they questioned the first man.

「Oi, where's the adventurer?」

「That brat is the adventurer.」

The men began to laugh after hearing that.

「Oi oi, no matter how I see it, isn't that just a child~? There's noo way this brat is an adventurer, don't you think~?」

「No, I heard it in town. With long black hair, a woman who only looks to be a child was able to become an adventurer. That person's features matches up.」

A commotion runs through the men.

「Is that true? Then this brat is really an adventurer?」

What's going on, these people. They don't seem to be hunters...

Could it be inconvenient that I'm an adventurer?

「Umm, is there a problem with me being an adventurer? And also, I can't see you people being hunters, so what are you doing here?」

The first man has a doubtful expression towards my words.

「What are you saying? Even though you received a commission from the guild.」

Haa, certainly, I came because I received a commission but... For some reason our conversation doesn't seem to connect.

「Oi, it doesn't matter if it's an adventurer or not, right? Our opponent is only one person. We can just capture and sell her just like the other children.」

After the first man said so, the other men also prepared each of their weapons.

「Oi! Be obedient and this will end without any pain. If you understand then raise both your hand and get on your knees!」

Eh? Wait, what is this? What's this development.

「Please wait a minute! What are you doing all of a sudden? Please give me an explanation!」

Someone explain this please!

「*Mu*, are you intending to resist? *Oi!* It's a beauty, so capture her alive if possible!」

Simultaneously with the voice, a man came slashing with his sword.

「Wait! Suddenly attacking me, isn't that too ridiculous!」

I cry out while dodging the attacks.

「Shut up! If you want to feel some pain then keep resisting!」²

Ah-, *mou!* I can't get through with words! It's okay to counterattack right?! It's legitimate self-defense!

「*teyaa!*」

Repelling the sword strike with my dagger, I gather up my *ki* and strike his defenseless solar plexus with a *savate*.

The man easily fainted.

「This guy! *Oi*, lets surround her!」

Looking at the man who fainted, the other men began to rouse up.

Four people began to spread out and surround me.

I take out my *bokutou* and prepare to fight back.

「Take this!」

The men at the front and back each began to attack.

「*fu*」

Stepping up and aiming at the man at the front, I swing my *bokutou* between his legs.

A somewhat unpleasant feeling transmitted through my *bokutou*, with this they've lost two people for their battle strength.

The other men stiffens up after seeing that.

「Uwa, how horrible...」

As the ones who suddenly attacked me, what are you saying?

With this chance, I face the man behind me and swing my *bokutou*.

Although the man tried to react, I strike his hands before he could grasp onto his sword.

Aiming at the area between his legs, I swing as I scoop up my *bokutou*.

The man immediately drew his feet back and swang his sword in order to defend.

Therefore I kick the ground with all my strength, using the momentum from the jump, I draw out my *bokutou* and take a swing aimed at his jaw.

Hit, and sink.³

The third person. Two people remaining.

The two remaining people started to attack mutually.

With the exchanges of each strike, I ward them off with my *bokutou*.

Mutually, yet cooperatively, their strikes are getting considerably severe.⁴

If I try to evade and counterattack the first person's attack, the second person's attack will come.

At times I cannot receive their attacks with my *bokutou*, although it's hard, it's still made from wood. It's gradually being shaved off.

Because my *bokutou* won't last at this rate, I'll end it immediately.⁵

Infusing *ki* into my *bokutou*, I strike a single blow onto the stomach of the incoming sword, with his posture collapsed, I draw out my *bokutou* and take a swing aimed at his stomach.

With that, it's the fourth person.

However, even with 4 men collapsed on the other side, the last person's attack still came.

Although I instantly repelled it with my *bokutou*, the *bokutou* came to an end and broke.

When the fifth person saw that, he expressed a smile and a broad grin, the opponent can still swing his sword.⁶

With a fragment of my *bokutou* at hand, I aimed it at his face and threw it.

Kon!

The hit gave off a satisfying sound.

As he leaned back from the result from the impact, I elbowed his stomach. With his body slightly collapsing, I once again force my elbow into his solar plexus.

With this, the 5 people come to an end.

If they hadn't been careless at the beginning and cooperated instead, I would've been in danger. Because of the three people that fainted from my surprise attacks, I was saved... Why would these people attack me?

For the time being, although I don't understand the situation well, I decide to tie up these men with a rope. It would be troublesome if they woke up and attacked me again *ne*.

Because I had plans to descend down a steep slope, it's a good thing I brought a large amount of rope.

I tie up the 5 men's hands and feet, furthermore, I tie the ropes on their hands and feet together so that they won't be able to get up.

It's the so-called *taiikuzuwarī* posture.

Finishing tying up all the members, as I was thinking back on what happened, the first man that fainted recovered this consciousness. Since this is a good time, I'll listen his story.

「Good morning.」

The man who recovered his consciousness looked at me after hearing my voice, his body trembled in alarm.

「You! How dare you do this!」⁷

While shouting, he tries to stand up, but his hands and feet are tied.

Without any change, he falls down sideways with a *koten*.

「Shit, untie me!」

「Don't want to. Aren't you going to just attack me again once I untie you? Leaving that aside, I want to hear why you suddenly attacked me.」

「Haa? What're you saying? Even though you received a commission from the guild to search for them. What're the contents of the commission? Our capture? Or is it the search for the children? Don't ya think it's a little late now to ask me about it.」

Ha? What does he mean?

「The guild has put out a commission for the capture of you and your friends? And the search of the children, what do you mean by that?」

「What the hell are you saying. The parents of the children we kidnapped put up a commission at the guild. You accepted it and came here in order to search. Ain't that how it went.」

fumu?

「So you're saying, you guys are a group of kidnappers that kidnapped children, so you attacked me because I came here?」

「That's what I meant isn't it. Shit, even though we were planning to leave this place tomorrow, how unlucky.」

I see, I was mistaken as an adventurer that came here in order to search for the children, so they attacked me.

Ahh, come to think of it, the owner of the inn and also the receptionist *onee-san* have been saying「Recently, I've heard a number of children have been kidnapped so please be careful」or something like that.

So it means these people are criminals?

「I understand the story. And so, where are the kidnapped children?」

「Aa? The basement. There's five people together in there.」

「You're awfully obedient *ne*?」

「I've already been caught. There's no use hiding it right? Besides, you'll discover it immediately if you investigate a little.」

U-n..., now that I know, I can't leave this as it is...

There's no other way, the ship has already sailed.

I'll rescue the children for the time being.

press f to pay respects

Notes

1. そういう喫茶店ですから当然、制服があるわけですが、一番小さいサイズ"でもこの世界の女性基準。ピンチヒッターのわたしに、別注で制服を用意するなんて手間も時間もありません。どうみてもぶかぶかな、サイズのあわないメイド服をなんとか着こんで、お店の中を必死に走り回ることになりました。
2. 「うるせえ！ 痛い思いをしたくなけりや抵抗すんな！」
3. 命中、そして撃沈。
4. 交互に、しかし連携をしての攻撃はなかなか厳しいです。
5. このままでは木刀が持たないので、一気にいきます。
6. それを見た5人目はにやり、と笑みを浮かべましたが、相手はまだ剣を振り抜いた態勢。
7. 「お前！ よくもやってくれたな！」

Chapter 33 ~ The Outcome

Chapter 33 – That was how it happened.

The basement was easily found.

The entrance was seen once removing the floor, a wooden box was placed on top of it to substitute as weight. At such a weird location, I thought it was strange a wooden box was placed there...

Rather than a basement, it's a slightly spacious storage room. A total of five boys and girls was there, the children are around 10 years old.

Taking the children outside, I start thinking of what to do next.

The current time has just passed 6:00pm, we should be back at the Royal Capital by 8:30pm if we leave now.

However, I also can't leave these kidnappers alone...

「Nee, you kids. After leaving this forest, are you able to head to the Royal Capital by yourselves?」

What I'd thought up was to send the children out of the forest, from there the children will head to the Royal Capital by themselves and call for some soldiers.

Once leaving the forest, although the sun will have gone down considerably, it'll still be up.

It took me around two hours to reach the Royal Capital by foot. If they take the highway then they'll be mostly safe.

After I see the children off, I can keep watch of the kidnappers here.

「Aa, it's all right. You can do it.」

Amongst the uneasy children, the eldest looking boy says—

「But, what are you going to do? You're the youngest out of all of us right? Are

you going to stay here by yourself?」

「Wai—, this again? Furthermore, for this child (probably a little over 10 years old) to also...」

「It's all right, because I'm 15 years old and an adventurer. I'm also the person who defeated those guys you know?」

「Ee!? Saying you're 15 years old is obviously a lie! You're even shorter than me!」

I'm an adult, I'm an adult, *WATASHI WA OTONA.*¹

「Anyway, it's all right. So, can you go to the Royal Capital and speak to a soldier-san?」

「Aa, leave it to us.」

「Alright. I'll send you guys outside of the forest, so let's go.」

It takes about 10 minutes to leave the forest from here, so the distance from coming and going might take around 30 minutes.

First of all, for the kidnappers that have currently woken up, I once again put them back to sleep.

Having moved to the outside of the forest together with the children, I taught them the direction of the Royal Capital and saw their retreating figures off, then once again returned back to the kidnapper's cabin.

It should take approximately five hours until the Royal Capital's soldiers arrive.

In the meantime, I started a bonfire and ate my dinner (I made some soup since there was time), the kidnappers that have woken up (because they were annoying) was once again put back to sleep.

The time is now 11:30pm

While feeling sleepy as I waited, my ears pick up a voice of a person.

Straining my ears, it's the voices of several people. It seems it's the soldiers from the Royal Capital.

In order for them to find me easier, I call out from where I am and lift up a piece of wood from the bonfire.

After that, appearing to have figured out my location, several soldiers immediately turned up.

The soldiers were firstly surprised when they saw me, and then surprised again after seeing the tied up and fainted kidnappers.

Since it's about time, because I want to sleep, I show them my adventurer's card and briefly explained the situation while leaving the remaining for tomorrow.²

The soldiers tied up the fainted kidnappers again and brought them along. I also follow along.

I get the carriage waiting outside the forest to take me to my inn, after telling me I need to come to the Chivalric Order's office tomorrow (today?) at 7 koku (2pm), I return to the inn.

Even though I usually wake up at 5am, I was late today as expected, it was already 9:30am by the time I woke up.

After having a late breakfast, I entered the bath since I couldn't yesterday, once I completed my preparations to leave, it was already 11:00am.

Going to the guild to report my commission, I received the reward for my six Ceribsa grass.

I'll also need to report about the group of kidnappers.

One of the kidnappers talked about a commission from the guild *ne*.

Although it wasn't intentional, what if I had snatched away another person's commission? That was one of the worries I had.

As a result, it was just me needlessly worrying.

Because it wasn't a commission that needed to be accepted, it was the kind where whoever resolves it will get rewarded.

Well, if I think about it, no one knows whether or not they could capture them,

if push comes to shove, the kidnappers could run away to a faraway place, with the risk of failure being so high, there wouldn't be anyone to accept it *ne*.

So, if I can get the Chivalric Order to verify that I was the one who resolved it, it seems I'll be able to take the reward. An unexpected profit!

After having a long talk, I leave the guild while being a little cheerful about my unexpected profit.

Checking the wristwatch in my pouch, it's before 1pm. Since I'm not hungry after my late breakfast, I decide to eat a light meal.

After having tea and a light meal at a nearby coffee shop(cafè?), I head to the Chivalric Order's office since yesterday I was told to go.

Reporting that I had business at the Chivalric Order's reception desk, three knights appeared as I was waiting in the designated room.

After I gave my greetings, well, because "that" happened as usual, I showed them my adventurer's card and they came to an understanding.

This Chivalric Order seems to be the division which generally defends the town.³

A knight-san gave me a summary of the kidnappings, I hear that the kidnappers abduct children then sell them to a northern country as slaves (although there's no slavery in this country, slavery exists in some other countries).

I talk about yesterday's events of how I found the kidnapper's hiding place and other details.

After that, I tell them about the kidnappers from yesterday.

Summarizing it, the kidnappers were calculative and cautious, even gathering rumours in the town, even though the guild had only put out the commission the day before yesterday, they had already planned to escape in the morning today.

If I hadn't been able to catch them yesterday, those children would've been sold to a northern country by now.

Finishing our conversation after an hour, two sheets of paper was handed to

me as I was about to leave.

When I looked at it, the two sheets of paper were like some sort of certificate.

I think the first sheet is to certify that I resolved the kidnapping case, but what's the other sheet for?

When I tilted my head to the side, a knight-san informed me.

「This covers the reward for capturing the leader of the kidnappers yesterday. You'll receive the bounty if you take this to the adventurers' guild.」

*Eh? The bounty for the leader, is it the so-called reward for his head? Is it that, the「WANTED」thing?*⁴

Uwaa, on top of the reward for the kidnapping... I might be able to achieve my goal.

「Thank you very much!」

Let's head to the Adventurers' Guild immediately!

Notes

1. わたしは大人、わたしは大人、ワタシハオトナ。
2. わたしは時間も時間ですし、わたし自身も眠たいので冒険者カードを見せ、簡単に状況を説明して後は明日に来てもらいます。
3. この騎士団は街の警備などを総括している部門らしいです。
4. え？リーダーに賞金って、いわゆる賞金首だったってことですか？「WANTED」とかのあれですか？

Chapter 34 ~ Reward

~things to know before reading~

upper-bottom (下の上) ~ a term from a three stage ranking system with three sub ranks each. *the names are just a rough translation, there may be an actual english term for these.*

1、上グループ – **top rank**

- (1) 上の上 > *upper-top*
- (2) 上の中 > *middle-top*
- (3) 上の下 > *lower-top*

2、中グループ – **middle rank**

- (1) 中の上 > *upper-middle*
- (2) 中の中 > *middle-middle(?)*
- (3) 中の下 > *lower-middle*

3、下グループ – **bottom rank**

- (1) 下の上 > *upper-bottom*
- (2) 下の中 > *middle-bottom*
- (3) 下の下 > *lower-bottom*

from http://detail.chiebukuro.yahoo.co.jp/qa/question_detail/q1220620682

Chapter 34 – Reward

I received it!

Eh? How much did I receive?

Well listen to this! It's a total of 11 gold coins!

It seems the reward for the kidnapping incident was 3 gold and 8 gold for the bounty reward.¹

It's too little even though it's a bounty you say? No, it seems that's not the case. I asked the receptionist *onee-san* and there's a whole range of bounties. The lowest bounty appears to be 1 gold~, the highest bounty is over 500 gold it seems.

This time's bounty was ranked *upper-bottom*.

Since I've gotten the money, I'll head to Graham-san's place right away!

As I was thinking that while leaving the guild, the receptionist *onee-san* called for me to stop.

「Fujino-sama, please wait a moment. Your card needs to be updated.」

What update is she talking about?

「Fujino-sama's adventurer rank is now E rank after completing this time's commission.」

Come to think of it, I should've achieved it from the prescribed points from this time's commission.

But if that's the case, why didn't they process it at the time I came to report the commission?

Having that question on my mind, I asked.

「Properly speaking, that should've happened, but this time, because the difference is that the special commission was achieved by Fujino-sama, it's decided that it'll be processed together with the rewards. And because the bounty was also captured, all of it will be processed together.」

A special commission, is it that kidnapping incident?

Since it's still a commission in the end, there should be points *ne*.

Does the bounty also have points?

「I understand, Then please.」

I hand over my card to the receptionist *onee-san*.

「Okay, because I believe this will take some time, please wait over there.」

She points towards the coffee room.

I waited while drinking herb tea.

「Fujino-sama.」

To the voice calling out to me, I head to the reception desk.

「Thank you for waiting. Since the update has finished, please confirm it.」

Handing back the card, I confirm the card's display.

Adventurer rank is...

Eh?

「Umm, how come my rank became D?」

E rank should be the rank above F rank.

「Yes, Fujino-sama has became a D rank. The reason is because of the special commission, the capture of the bounty and the five kidnappers you captured by yourself, in addition, your evaluation was increased because you safely protected the children. As a result, it's been decided that you will be ranked up to D rank.」

After hearing the full story, resolving the kidnapping incident and capturing the criminals, protecting the children, it seems the points are each calculated differently.

Also adding up the capture of the bounty, as a result, there were enough points to carry me though to D rank.

It seems this special commission originally needed a party above D rank to resolve. Was that how the evaluation was done?²

With me having an unexpected large amount of money and a rank up, I head towards Graham-san's place for the time being.

「Hello~. Is Graham-san here?」

Entering Graham's Weapon Store, I call out towards the interior.

「Ou, it's the *jou-chan*. What's happened?」

Graham-san immediately appears from the back.

「I came to buy since I've saved up enough money!」

Looking at me speak with a smile, Graham-san makes a doubtful-like expression.

「You've already saved enough? Only half a month has passed ya know. *Oi*, you didn't do anything bad right?」

Mu, what are you suddenly saying.

「I didn't do anything bad. I only obtained an extraordinary income.」

「Extraordinary income? *Jou-chan*'s only been an adventurer for half a month right? And yet an extraordinary income you say, isn't that strange?」

「I resolved a kidnapping incident. Though it was by accident. I received the reward for it.」

「A kidnapping incident? Ain't that the one recently rumoured? This morning I heard that the criminals were caught during the night but, *jou-chan* was the one who caught them?」

「That's the kidnapping incident. Although I really did discover them by accident *ne*. Through a course of events, I caught them.」

「So it was *jou-chan* who caught them. And that's the reason for your extraordinary income.」

You finally understand.

「That's what happened. Incidentally the leader had a bounty on his head so I also received his bounty.」

While he listened, Graham-san brought over a katana from the back of the store.

「Well then, right now you have enough money to spare right? I have a suggestion, why don't ya put some glyphs on this fella? I have an acquaintance who's a skillful magic technician.」

Glyphs?

「Will it turn into a magic tool? For example, being able to cut anything?」

「Pretty much, like『Repair』so the blade won't chip or『Sharpness』to improve its sharpness, something along those lines?」

Mu,『Repair』might be good since I'm also worried about chips on the blade.『Repair』should also make it difficult to rust.

「What's the price and how long does it take?」

「Let me think, although it's an estimate... the price for one should be 2000 Goualch, if you want it on both sides, then a period of two days would be enough.」

So 40 silvers for two and a period of two days huh.

「Umm, I would like both sides please.」

「Alright. Also, what'll you do for the sword belt?」

A sword belt, I think it was like a belt which allows a sword to hang from your waist.³

「Umm, I'll have one please.」

「It would be better to make a new one for *jou-chan*'s case. It also needs to be changed for the katana. Come to think of it, doesn't *jou-chan* need armor?」

Armor?

Now that he mentions it, I've been thinking of nothing but weapons, I haven't considered armor *ne*.

「That's right. Although I haven't thought about it until now... If it's light and doesn't disturb my movements, it may be nice to have one.」

「Light and doesn't disturb movements huh. It's a little expensive but, how about putting『Light weight』on leather armor?」

「How much would it cost?」

「The price... should be around 8000 Goualch. Parts for the chest, arm and leg sections right? Although it'll take some time, around five days.」

「In that case, I'll also have the armor please. However, I might want various requests to be added.」

I'd like to avoid having the completed product and what I had in mind to be different.

「I don't mind. Since it's to protect *jou-chan*'s body after all. I'm sorry but, it's necessary to take your measurements immediately. After that we can start the preparations.」⁴

Graham-san heads into the back of the store after saying that. I also follow besides him.

Even though it's on top of my clothes, having various parts measured is embarrassing *ne*.

Starting from the neck, then around my shoulders, chest's measurements, abdomen's girth, arm's length and thickness, legs likewise, then finally my height was measured.

*Eh? Height? I had some expectations but... *cough cough**

Afterwards, we discussed the shape of the armor.

By the time we finished our discussion, it was already 6 o'clock.

Paying for the katana, I would then come back in two days with the katana's receipt, after arranging that I returned to the inn.

「I'm back~. I'd like dinner please.」

「Ahh, welcome back. Fujino-san, you have a visitor. The table at the back」

After returning to the inn, the owner greeted me and pointed towards a table at the back.

「A visitor for me? Who could it be?」

Uttering to the owner, I head towards the table at the back.

Who was there? It was that person who I had parted with half a month ago.

is the lolicon back?!

Notes

1. 誘拐事件の報酬が金貨3枚で褒章金のほうが金貨8枚だそうです。
2. それだけ評価もされている、ということでしょうか。
3. 剣帯って、腰に剣をぶら提げるためのベルトみたいなものでしたっけ。
4. 早速で悪いが必要な寸法を計らせてくれ。そのあとで打ち合わせだ

Chapter 35 ~ Dinner with that Person

~things to know before reading~

son (息子) ~ ...can either mean son...or penis... please interpret as you will in this chapter since I can't tell...

kanpai ~ said at the end of a toast, pretty much means cheers or drink up.

Chapter 35 – Dinner with that Person.

「Sakura, it's been a while. You seem to be well.」¹

「Eh? Ah, yes. It's been a while. —Wait no, what are you doing here, Prince Sedrim?」

「Hahaha. To meet Sakura of course, is what I'd like to say but, I came because of business.」

「Ha? Business with me? What is it?」

From the Prince's words, my mind gets filled with「?」.

「Ahh, well we're not in a rush. We can talk during a meal.」

Just as he finished those words, a meal enough for two was carried over.

「Are you eating too, Prince?」

「What? Since Sakura is hungry, you want to eat your meal in front of me as I watch?」²

「No no, that's not what I mean. What if a meal had been prepared for you in the castle, is what I mean...」

「No problem. I've already said I'm eating here.」

No no, I think the problem is that a royalty is having a meal in such a place. With neither bodyguard nor poison tester...

Ahh, he's already begun eating...

It can't be helped, I'll also start eating.

「Though I said business, it's more of a report.」

After going through half the meal, the Prince starts to talk.

「Since the criminals in Lyle Dist's case and Sodom Caral Balshnia's case has been solved. I came since I thought I should report it. It's more or less related to Sakura right?」

Ahh, come to think of it, there was something like that *ne*.

Although it hasn't even been twenty days, it feels like it was a very long time ago.

For now, I'll listen to the Prince's story.

「Firstly regarding Lyle Dist's case, starting with Gildas Somur Lambert, nine people have been arrested. It seems ten people participated in the plan, but one has already passed away. Just as Sakura expected, it seems the nine people who were arrested have been employed by Sodom Caral Balshnia. They committed the crime because they were enticed by the money and promotions. Amongst them, including Gildas, four people were in the Chivalric Order with a high position, while the other five people had already retired to succeed their household. Severe punishments have already been given to each of them.」

The Prince took a breather and drank some wine.

「Well, currently we're in the middle of selecting knights for the replacements. That's what's happened regarding Lyle Dist's case.」

fumufumu.

I continued with my meal while listening to the story.

However, today's meal feels somewhat more luxurious than usual.

The meat's quality is better than usual...

「Next is Sodom Caral Balshnia, Sakura already knows up until the part of him being arrested. Afterwards, we escorted him to the Royal Capital and interrogated him, although he didn't readily confess at the beginning. Well, after

thrusting those documents and also Gildas' and the other's confessions at him, he finally confessed. As for his punishment, with his former prime minister's position, it was troublesome in various ways. As punishment for embezzlement, smuggling and Lyle Dist's murder, yesterday, an execution was completed. Well, for his 'son'. The Balshnia family's last performer has been crushed.³」

Hearing execution, I had a slightly unpleasant feeling but, he was the ringleader that instigated the murder of the previous me. Even if he was executed, it can't be helped is what I think, that is to say my viewpoint towards death in this world has probably received a strong influence from the dreams of my previous life⁴.

Which reminds me, although I also saw corpses of those thieves at the time I came to this world, I hardly felt anything. The slightly unpleasant feeling is probably influenced from my everyday life in Japan.

I finish eating my meal while listening to the story.

「That's the end of the report. Though I didn't just come to have that conversation during a meal. That and, I came to celebrate Sakura becoming an adventurer. It's become quite late. You know, I heard from the Chivalric Order. You played quite the active part yesterday, didn't you?」

「That..., thank you very much. You also seem quite well, Prince. Nevertheless, you have quite the sharp ears *ne*. I only heard about the situation this afternoon you know?」

「Right, I had to make an appearance at the Chivalric Order's area. I heard it at that time you see. *Oh*, it seems it's arrived.」

At the same time as he said that, glasses and a wine bottle was placed on the table, in exchange, the tableware were cleaned up.

「Speaking of celebrations, there has to be alcohol right?」

The Prince opens up the wine bottle and pours it into a glass while smiling, the glass was then placed in front of me.

The Prince also pours some wine into his own glass.

「I'm sorry. In my country we cannot have alcohol until we turn 20.」

「There's no age restriction in this country you know?」

That's right... My mood has gone down after hearing that conversation earlier... Since he's gone through the trouble, it might be okay to try some alcohol.

「Well then, since you've gone through the trouble, *itadakimasu.*」

When I held onto the glass, the Prince also held onto his and slightly raised it.

「Aah, to Sakura's future as an adventurer, I wish for your objectives to come true... *kanpai.*」

「*Kanpai.*」

I take a sip.

「It's surprisingly easy to drink *ne.* Also delicious...」

「It seems this wine is easy for women to drink. Come to think of it, doesn't Sakura cook? Since it was very delicious, I'd like to eat it again if possible.」

「It's impossible at an inn *ne.* Even at the times when I leave the town, there isn't much time to cook.」

「Then how about a boarding house? It also depends on the room but, I hear it becomes cheaper than an inn if you think of the long term. There should be a room that meets your expectations if you search.」

「A boarding house huh... It might be good to be able to cook for myself.」

We continued to talk while drinking the wine little by little.

「However, I won't know unless I see the price and conditions of the room. Are there boarding houses formed by adventurers?」

「I don't know the full details but, I've heard from a story that there seems to be numerous boarding houses for adventurers. Especially in situations when adventurers selects a single town as a base. Since it seems it would be cheaper that way. You might understand more if you ask the guild.」

「The guild~? It might be good to ask them *ne~.*」

Finishing the second glass of wine, I pour my third glass. I feel somewhat fluffy.

「*Oi*, are you all right? Your face is bright red you know?」

「*Fufu*. I'm fiiine. Although I'm feeling slightly fluffy, there's no problem?」

「*Naa*, you're drunk right? Isn't it better to stop drinking?」

「*Ahaha*, what are you saaying. There's noo way I'm drunk with only two cups? It's celebratory alcohol riight? Hey heey, the Prince also drink moore~」

Saying that, I pour wine into the Prince's glass.

「No no, no matter how you look at it, you're drunk. Let's stop already. You're extremely weak to alcohol. It's a considerably weak alcohol too. Is it because of your small body that you're weak to alcohol?」

「*Muu~*. You're treating me like a child again *ne*. Didn't I say I'm an aduult. Okay then, I'll make you understand that I'm an adult!」

I empty my glass in one go, grabbed the Prince's hand and pulled it towards my chest.

「*Wai-*, yo—, what are you doing all of a sudden! I already understand Sakura is an adult! So stop it!」

Just before touching my chest, the Prince withdrew his hand in panic.

Being treated like that, I get angry.

「*Ahh*, that's right. The Prince is an *oppai* alien *ne*. There's no value in touching my meager chest right~?」

「Haven't I already said that it's unrelated to the size your chest. *Mou*, listen to me and stop drinking.」

「*Hmmph.*」

Saying that, I rose from my seat, but since I got up so suddenly, my feet staggered and I ended up sitting on the ground.

「What are you doing so suddenly? Are you not getting back up?」

「It's not that I can't get up. I'll wobble a little if I get up that's aall~」

「Which means you can't get up, good grief... And? Why did you suddenly get

up?」

The Prince asks while he tries to get me up.

「Noo reason in particular? Just a little, I thought about going to the toilet that's all~」

Standing up by accepting the Prince's help, I unsteadily walk towards a wall.

「A—, mou, you're drunk! Not that way, it's this way.」

Unable to find the right direction, the Prince holds onto my shoulder and guides me to the toilet.

「Ahahahaha, well then, see you later.」

Afterwards, my consciousness faded while sitting on the toilet.

wow! next chapter is from the oppai alien's perspective

Notes

1. 「サクラ、久しぶりだな。元気にやっているようじゃないか」
2. 「なんだ? サクラは腹をすかせている私に、目の前で食事をしているのを見ていろというのか?」
3. その息子もな。バルシニア家も取り潰しとなった」
4. そうなっても仕方ないだけのこととした、と思うわたしの死に対する倫理観というのはこの世界の、夢で見た前世の影響を強く受けているのでしょうか。

Chapter 36 ~ Dinner from the Perspective of that Person

Author's note:

A rare story from a perspective of a different person.

It's from the perspective of the person from the previous story (chapter).

珍しく別人視点でのお話。

前話をあの人視点で。

Chapter – Dinner from the Perspective of that Person.

~

~

Currently, I'm waiting for someone in the dining room of an inn called Migratory Bird.

The person I'm waiting for is a girl who came from another world twenty days ago.

The girl has an unusual hair colour, her attitude doesn't change even knowing I'm royalty, rather, there's no feeling of respect from her attitude.

Of the three days we spent together, I've kept thinking where her small child-like body gets the energy from, it's very interesting to watch her being restless and always moving around.

While recalling that, I consciously feel my face loosen.

After we separated, I've heard some rumors by chance.

I heard she registered as an adventurer two days after we separated, also today from stopping by the Chivalric Order for business, I heard a story about that girl resolving a kidnapping incident.

With her small body that doesn't even look 10 years old, it's a mystery how she

knocked out those adult men.

There are things which must be told to that girl today, I took this opportunity since I have some personal business too so I'm waiting here.

Waiting for a little while, I see a small figure approaching from the counter.

When that figure noticed me, I decided to call out to her from here because she stiffened up with a surprised expression.

「Sakura, it's been a while. You seem to be well.」

「Eh? Ah, yes. It's been a while. —Wait no, what are you doing here, Prince Sedrim?」

She sure is surprised. It's slightly enjoyable messing with her successfully.

「*Hahaha*. To meet Sakura of course, is what I'd like to say but, I came because of business.」

「Ha? Business with me? What is it?」

「Aa, well we're not in a rush. We can talk during a meal.」

Perfect, it seems the meal I ordered has came.

I requested it to be a little luxurious beforehand.

「Are you eating too, Prince?」

「What? Since Sakura is hungry, you want to eat your meal in front of me as I watch?」

「No no, that's not what I mean. What if a meal had been prepared for you in the castle, is what I mean...」

「No problem. I've already said I'm eating here.」

Although she has a complicated expression for some reason, I start eating the meal in front of me.

When she saw that, she began her meal with an 'it can't be helped' expression, and concentrated on the meal after a short moment.

With my meal almost finished, I decide to begin the story.

「Although I said business, it's more of a report.」

Confirming that she was listening to my voice, I continued to talk.

Around the time we finished our meal, our talk about the business I came here for had ended.

「That's the end of the report. Though I didn't just come to have that conversation during a meal. That and, I came to celebrate Sakura becoming an adventurer. It's become quite late. You know, I heard from the Chivalric Order. You played quite the active part yesterday, didn't you?」

While remembering about a story I heard by chance, I turn my focus towards it.

「That..., thank you very much. You also seem quite well, Prince. Nevertheless, you have quite the sharp ears *ne*. I only heard about the situation this afternoon you know?」

「Right, I had to make an appearance at the Chivalric Order's area. I heard it at that time you see. *Oh*, it seems it's arrived.」

Perfect, a waitress has brought the wine.

This wine also, I requested it beforehand for it to be brought once our meal was over.

「Speaking of celebrations, there has to be alcohol right?」

I pour some wine into her glass while smiling.

Although she slightly hesitated, it seems she decided to drink in the end.

Because she held the glass, I quickly raise my glass and say a few words.

「Aah, to Sakura's future as an adventurer, I wish for your objectives to come true... *kanpai*.」

「*Kanpai*.」

When she took a sip of wine into her mouth,

「It's surprisingly easy to drink *ne*. Also delicious...」
she dropped those words.

It seems requesting it sweet and easy to drink was a correct decision.

While tilting my wine, I ask about a little something on my mind.

「It seems this wine is easy for women to drink. Come to think of it, doesn't Sakura cook? Since it was very delicious, I'd like to eat it again if possible.」

「It's impossible at an inn *ne*. Even at the times when I leave the town, there isn't much time to cook.」

「Then how about a boarding house? It also depends on the room but, I hear it becomes cheaper than an inn if you think of the long term. There should be a room that meets your expectations if you search.」

Although I've only had it twice, I want to taste that dish she made again, so I continue to push her while yearning in my heart.

「A boarding house huh... It might be good to be able to cook for myself.」

「However, I won't know unless I see the price and conditions of the room. Are there boarding houses formed by adventurers?」

Fumu? It seems she's interested.

If it goes smoothly, I might be able to eat that dish again.

「I don't know the full details but, I've heard from a story that there seems to be numerous boarding houses for adventurers. Especially in situations when adventurers selects a single town as a base. Since it seems it would be cheaper that way. You might understand more if you ask the guild.」

「The guild~? It might be good to ask them *ne*~.」

She drinks up the remaining wine in her glass and then pours her third cup.

Seeing her red face and somewhat incoherent speech feels quite amusing.

「*Oi*, are you all right? Your face is bright red you know?」

「*Fufu*. I'm fiiine. Although I'm feeling slightly fluffy, there's no problem?」

Aa, she's drunk... with a weak wine, in addition she's only had two cups...

Shortly after I told her to stop drinking, I had a battle with this girl who "wasn't drunk", but I'll be omitting it.¹

It was pretty bad for me mentality you see...²

Finally, she suddenly rose from her seat, then sat on the floor immediately after.

「What are you doing so suddenly? Are you not getting back up?」

「It's not that I can't get up. I'll wobble a little if I get up that's aall~」

With her current situation sitting on the floor, she looks up at me with upturned eyes.

What is this drunkard...

Her flushed red face and slightly moist jet black eyes. Furthermore, firmly looking at me with her upturned eyes.

Wa! Not good, what was I thinking of just now?

「Which means you can't get up, good grief... And? Why did you suddenly get up?」

While being aware of my slightly rough tone, I help her get up.

「Noo reason in particular? Just a little, I thought about going to the toilet that's aall~」

「A—, mou, you're drunk! Not that way, it's this way.」

While talking about going to the toilet, she staggers towards an empty wall.

I grabbed hold of her shoulders then took her to the toilet.

When we walk side by side, I realize how small she is.

Her head isn't even up to my chest.

She probably only reaches the pit of my stomach at most.

「Ahahahaha, well then, see you laater.」

She energetically parted with me and entered the toilet.

「Haa~」

I involuntarily let out a sigh.

This isn't the first time I've dealt with a drunkard.

At the times I drink with those bunch from the Chivalric Order, there'll always be some people that get wasted.

However. Is it really this difficult to deal with a female drunk...?

Although I thought about having another drink, it'll be difficult to imagine her drunkenness settling when she leaves from the toilet. Probably, today was her first time drinking alcohol.

It's likely she'll bother the surroundings if I leave her as she is in her current condition, above all, the one who urged her to drink today was myself. I should at least send her to her room.

If I do that, how do I persuade that drunkard, I need to think of a way *na*.³

「Slow.」

A long time has passed since she entered the toilet.

During that time, I can't help but think the people waiting by the toilet have already left.

I'll try to search for her presence a little.

...There's a presence. But, it doesn't seem to be moving.

With her unsteady legs, did she stumble and hit her head?

With that image crossing my mind, I made up my mind and entered the toilets and tried knocking on the stall's door.

konkonkon...

There's no reaction to the knock.

「Sakura? It's Sedrim. Are you okay?」

I tried speaking, but there was no reaction either.

「*Oi, Sakura! I'm going to enter!?*」

Slightly flustered, I try to open the stall's door.

gacha

Without it being locked, it easily opens.

Why wasn't it locked?

While thinking it was strange, I open the door.

「！」

She, was, there.

Sitting on the toilet, with her, head down.

「Suu~, suu~」

A sound of a sleeper's breathing spreads through the stall.

It seems after she sat on the toilet, she fell asleep just like that.

That's, good. No, it's not, but.

The problem is, she fell asleep「in the middle」of the going to toilet, is what I mean.

Right, her pants and underwear are down, she's sitting on the toilet in that current condition and sleeping.

It's unintentional, it's the fault of a man's nature to stare, it's that kind of thing?⁴

「Oi, Sakura. Wake up. This isn't the place to sleep.」

Calming down, I carefully avoid looking down there as much as possible as I call out to her and lightly tap her cheek.

「n, un... Prince...?....is it?」

For an instant, I thought she had woken up but, after leaving some ambiguous words, a sleeper's breathing can be heard again.

「Oi hey, don't sleep! Get up!」

Grabbing her shoulders and shaking her, she slightly opens her eyes and stares at me.

Unintentionally returning her stare, I was hit with an unprecedented shock.

Limply would be the closest way to describe it. She displayed an enchanting smile, without any change, *koten*, she leaned her head onto my arm.

How long was it.

Several seconds? Or was it several minutes?

My face is most likely bright red.

And this situation.

「How do you want me to...」

After that, it was work which wore away my nerves like never before. I'll just say it like that.

But my retribution still continued.

I carried her out from the toilet, received the key to her room from the counter, then carried her to her room.

Finally placing her on her bed, I took a breather.

「When you sleep with your mouth open like that, it's cute...」

While speaking to myself, I was about to brush off her hair covering her face, would it be bad if I continue to reach out my hand...?⁵

gui dosa

All of a sudden my hand was pulled, when I noticed, I had already fallen on the bed.

「What...!？」

The instant I instinctively tried to get up, *gyu*, I feel something warm coiling around my body.

dokun

My heart jumped out when I realized.

Looking besides me, the girl that should've been sleeping was clinging onto me.

Small, but obviously a woman's soft body was clinging to me.

What's her intention?

I wanted to take a look and examine her face, but I couldn't see her face from my position.

When I listened carefully, I could hear her regulated breathing from sleeping.

Is she unconscious?

Did she unconsciously aim for me to cling onto, or was it just fine to cling onto whoever...

Thinking about it, if it's the former then my heart would be excited, but if I think of the latter, it's an awfully unpleasant feeling.

Thinking to myself, I persuade myself that it's probably because she's drunk.

「Sakura, let me go.」

Oddly enough, with my gentle voice, far from her separating, she clings onto me harder and nuzzles her face against my arm.

My reasoning may drop to a dangerous level at this rate.

Sensing the warmth from the areas being clung onto, I try to separating my body from that soft feeling.

However, I can't get away no matter how I move my body. On the contrary, each time I twist my body, I have a feeling we're getting more entwined.

It appears that I won't be able to escape.

From now until she wakes up, the time of my long retribution had begun.

Notes

1. しばらく飲むなと言う私と、酔ってないという彼女との攻防があったが、割愛しよう。

2. 少し精神的に悪いこともあったしな...。
3. とすると、どうやってあの酔っ払いを説得するか、考えなければいけないな。
4. 思わず、そこを凝視してしまったのは男の性、というヤツなのだろうか？
5. 独り言を口にしながら、彼女の顔にかった髪を払おうと、手を伸ばしたのが悪かったのか...。

Chapter 37 ~ End of that Night

~things to know before reading~

seiza ~ a formal(?) way of sitting



doushi ~ guidance teacher/tutor/advisor **hetare (ヘタレ)** ~ incompetent, lazy, worthless, good for nothing, loser.

ikemen ~ a handsome/beautiful man

People's rumors lasts 75 days ~ a proverb which means – rumors fade with time, so do not get upset as people will forget.

Chapter 37 – End of that Night.

The morning sun rises, the town begins to move.

「nu..., fua.....a」

Slowly, I wake up from my sleep.

What is this between my arms? It's a firm, large and warm object.

It feels comfortable for some reason, I unconsciously strengthened the power of my arms and clung on more.¹

As I shifted to rub my face, a man's voice descended from overhead.

「Good morning, Sakura. Since you've woken up, isn't it about time to let me go?」

When I lifted my head, Sedrim's face was there with an exhausted appearance.

As I slowly lowered my eyes, the Prince's neck, shoulder, chest...

That's what I had clung to.

It appears what I was clinging onto just now, was the Prince's body.

「Hya! S-Sorry!」

Pushing aside the thin blanket, I get up while moving towards the end of the bed, and instinctively sit in *seiza*.

Huh? But why is the Prince here...?

This is the room where I stay in right?

As the Prince gets up, he looks in my direction, then turns away with a red face.

「?」

While tilting my head to the side, a ? floats above my head,

「You should put something on. I'm troubled about where I should look.」

While being confused at those words, I look at my own body.

Eh...?

「！ ！ ！ ！ ！ N-Naked!? Why? Why am I naked!?」

In a hurry, I wrap up my body with the blanket I pushed aside a moment ago, and surveyed my surroundings.

Clothes, my clothes are...?

Clothes, pants, lingerie, underwear... The clothes I had worn yesterday, were scattered around the floor besides the bed.

Although the Prince has his chest exposed, his appearance isn't very dishevelled.

However, it can't be..., no, such a thing.... But in the unlikely event....

Various things are spinning round and round in my head, when the Prince saw my bright red and crying-like face, the Prince let out a huge breath.

「Haa~~~~~. Sakura, yesterday's events, do you remember?」

Suddenly being questioned, I frantically try to remember while becoming a little panicked.

Umm, yesterday when I returned to the inn, I was told a visitor had came for me, it turned out it was the Prince so then we had a meal while I listened to his story, afterwards I drank some alcohol...

I slowly recall yesterday's shameful behaviour.

Most likely, my face has turned red.

「*Umm, yes. I, I remember... I'm sorry.*」

「I see...」

The Prince only said those brief words.

「*Umm, But I, I only remember up until I entered the toilet, the things after that...*」

Right, I only remember up until the part I entered the toilet to do my business.

The Prince glanced at me for an instant, then spoke while facing away.

「*Aa, since it didn't seem like you were coming out, I took a peek inside and saw you sleeping. Of course, I called out to you before entering. I thought you might've collapsed inside you see. Maa, in the end, you were just sleeping. And then I took you out from the toilet, and returned you to your room.*」

「*Umm, sorry for causing trouble... Ah, by the way, as far as my memory goes,*

my condition when I fell asleep on the toilet was...」

The Prince's face turns red, which makes me uneasy.

「Eh, could it be...」

「A—, I was careful to not look as much as possible you know?」

With those few words, my fear had come into realization.

I'm burning with shame, I'm sure that I've turned bright red.

「Umm..., right! That's right! I recall the toilet was dim, it was so dark you couldn't see ne! ne!」

「Eh? No, it wasn't dim, and the darkness was also... If I had to say then there was nothing growi—「N O O O O O O O ! ! ! !」」

「What are you saying! You did see it after all! And you also thoroughly memorized it! Prince is a liar! Lecher! Besides, it is growing! Although it's faint, it's growing! It's just hard to tell!! I can't take this anymore! I can't become a bride...!」

I turn my back towards the Prince and scream.

The Prince desperately retorts.

「That. Was. Because! It couldn't be helped that it came into view! You're also to blame for sleeping in that situation! Also, I didn't lie! I didn't look 'as much as possible'!」

'Besides, even if you can't become a bride...', the Prince grumbles and mutters, but I pretended I didn't hear. I'm only observing at this point.

Although my face was emitting flames with that alone, I couldn't hear the words after that.²

「Well then, why were you sleeping here, Prince? Also, why was I naked?」

This, is important.

「Could it be... I, and the Prince, in the end...?」

「I didn't do such a thing! You—!」

Saying up until there, the Prince took a large deep breath and corrected

himself.

「I carried Sakura to the room and laid you on your bed. Then suddenly, Sakura grabbed my arm and dragged me onto the bed. Afterwards, my body was clung onto, you would cling even more excessively when I tried moving my body... Since Sakura wouldn't get up even when I tried waking you up, I had to helplessly stay where I was. As for your clothes, you said『hot』in the middle of the night and took them off. I don't understand how you did it but, I couldn't slip out while you were in the middle of taking off your clothes either. I stayed like that until morning.」

The Prince talks in an indifferent tone.

When I turned around to have a better look of the Prince's face, there were shadows under the Prince's eyes.

「Prince, could it be, you didn't sleep...?」

When I timidly asked,

「There's no way I could sleep in that situation right?」

he returned with an angry tone.

Although I intently observed, it doesn't seem like he's telling a lie.

「Ah, then really, I'm still...」

While muttering, I unconsciously place my hands between my legs.

It's dry, the feeling of my skin.

There wasn't any traces of 'that thing'.

「You! Don't do that sort of thing in front of a man!」

He seems to know the actions I'm doing under the blanket.

「Because it's like that! There's no reason to be ashamed of me! If you understand then put on some clothes, I'm leaving the room.」

The Prince stands up, then heads towards the door.

Just as his hand was about to arrive at the door.

konkonkon

「Good morning, Sakura-san. Are you here?」

Len-san's voice? (*for those who forgot, Len is the court mage, changed from Ren*)

「「Eh?」」

My voice and the Prince's overlap.

It seems our voices could be heard from the hallway.

「Aa, so you're here. Excuse me.」

gacha

The door was opened without any time to prevent it, and Len-san's face peeked through.

And then, the Prince's bare chest, myself naked on top of the bed with a blanket wrapped around me, the removed clothes scattered around. He looks at those in order.

「Aa, I'm sorry. Am I disturbing you? I'll be waiting below, so please take your time.」

Smiling with a grin, Len-san begins to close the door.

What's with that pleasant smile.

「Aaaa! You're wrong! Please wait a moment! Prince, you too, quickly!」

「A, aa, Len-doushi. About that, how about waiting in the hallway for a moment?」

After coming to my senses, I raise my voice in panic, in addition I somehow urge the Prince into action.

After the two people disappeared into the hallway, I quickly collect the scattered clothing and put them on.

Although I wore it yesterday, I'm giving priority to the current emergency.³

After putting on the clothes and lightly checking it, I open the door.

「It's okay now. Please enter.」

I invite the two people who had exited into the hallway back in the room.

As soon as everybody sat at the table, Len-san opened his mouth.

「Well, because his Highness Prince Sedrim didn't return last night, I came to check on the situation but... Who would've thought, that there was this sort of relationship... I'll refrain from saying any unrefined words⁴. Well, so his Highness has finally taken in a partner.」

He misunderstood to the fullest.

No, I believe it can't be helped if misunderstandings happen after seeing this situation, but.

「Please don't misunderstand. The Prince was only looking after me after I collapsed from drinking alcohol yesterday. Nothing further than that happened. It seems because I grabbed onto the Prince while I was asleep, he couldn't return home. Isn't that right? Prince.」

The summary wasn't wrong. Although I omitted some important parts...

That sort of thing, do you think that's something I can tell people about?

「A, aa. It's just as Sakura said.」

「However, if nothing happened, what was the reason for Sakura's appearance?」

「Ehh, it was hot, so it seems I took my clothes off myself in the middle of sleeping...」

When I said that sort of thing about myself, it somewhat feels like I'm shaming myself on purpose.⁵

Prince, don't just nod, please explain it instead.

「Eh—, maa, even if I do decide to believe in you. Most likely some people in the castle have already recognized it as that sort of thing though...」

What? What does he mean?

While floating a ? mark, I watch Len-san and the Prince's face, Len-san has a

troubled expression, the Prince seemed to have a clue and had an unpleasant expression, he avoided my gaze.

「Yesterday, you see, his Highness Sedrim. Announced that he would take on the role himself to come and talk to Sakura about those cases. However at first, it was said that either me or Leirick would come. Of course, his Majesty and the Queen knows this, the Prime Minister and some Imperial Guards also knows. And now, judging that he had returned in the morning, it's hard to say that they wouldn't have unjust suspicions. And with those reasons, I believe the people in the castle have already recognized it as that sort of thing.」

Len-san added, so his Majesty and the Queen have already recognized it like that *ne*.

Eh? What? The Prince purposely volunteered himself to come here? And returning in the morning?

No no, I feel it's my fault that I was holding onto the Prince while I was drunk but, what were you thinking, Prince?

And also, a country's Prince announcing that he would run around like a messenger boy...⁶

Because of that, it turned into a weird misunderstanding, come to think of it, myself being drunk too, wasn't it the Prince that encouraged me to drink alcohol?

When I looked at the Prince with criticizing eyes,

「*Er, maa*, it can't be helped since it's in the past. *Un*. It would be better to think of the future, right?」

What are you babbling about with that refreshing smile.

「What are you saying? Wasn't the Prince originally responsible for getting me drunk? *Aa, mou!* I understand, I won't approach the castle until the heat dies down.」

If I don't get close to the castle, then the chances of meeting any Royalty will decrease remarkably.

Actually, I haven't met a single one since yesterday.

「Eeh? That would be troublesome. The Queen and his Highness the First Prince, in addition the Princess as well, have said that they want to meet Sakura-san.」

Unexpectedly, Len-san responded to my words.

「Haa? Why would the Royal Family want to meet with me?」

「At the time this case was explained, the story of Sakura-san was also told. Because of that, they seemed to be interested. With this time's matter of his Highness Prince Sedrim, I was told beforehand to try bring you along if possible...」

Was this caused by the Prince again?

「I won't go if it's not an order. Although, I don't intend to go even if it is an order.」

This Royal Family, don't they have too much free time?

The Royal Family wants to simply meet a single ordinary adventurer without any status or anything...

「Now now, since Sakura has said it, it should be fine to leave it for now right? I'll say something to my mother and the others. It's possible that there'll be an opportunity to meet before long.」

Said the Prince that caused this.⁷

Maa, certainly, there is a 'possibility' that we'll meet *ne*. It's not like the possibility is zero.

Though I don't think it'll be very high.

「Which reminds me, why would there be rumors about me? Although you skipped through it, Len-san said『his Highness has finally found a partner』just now right? Shouldn't there be one or two people lined up to be his fiancée since he's a Prince?」

Right, if the Prince had a partner to begin with, I would think it wouldn't be a big deal even after this had happened.⁸

「Ah~, how do I say it, that, you see.」

Len-san is being awfully evasive.

「There isn't one.」

「Ha?」

「There isn't one, a fiancée for his Highness Prince Sedrim.」

Eh? There isn't.... Although he seems obstinate, isn't he still a Prince?

「Why? Why doesn't he have one? This person, although he's the second, he's still a Prince right? Although I don't know how tall he is, he looks to be around average, his social position is a Prince, close to the highest you can get. Even though he won't become the King, he should be equivalent to a Duke's household. In addition to that, his face is good, he stands at the vanguard of the Chivalric Order with valor, although he has a slightly *hetare* personality, he shouldn't be bad. No matter how you look at it, isn't he a super-excellent article? Why doesn't a person like that have a fiancée?」

「What do you mean *hetare*, *hetare*... My height is 184cm by the way. I see, so Sakura sees me with such favourable terms.」

Well you seem happy *ne*, Prince.

So you were 184cm huh. If I round up, there's an amazing difference compared with my barely 140cm. Share a little with me. Even 10cm is good.

「To be exact, he has fiancée 'candidates'. Just like Sakura-san has said, Princes are popular amongst women. However, for some reason he rejected the engagements.」

So he gets to choose when the time comes. What an *ikemen*.

「When it comes to fiancées, it becomes annoying in various ways you see. I'm only 21. Isn't it fine after my elder brother gets married?」

「*Fumufumu*, in other words, you still want to mess around, is what you're saying right?」

Maa, with that appearance, even if you ignore them, women will still flock to you on their own accord.

「That's not what I mean. Simply, when it comes to fiancées, it's nothing but

troublesome.]

「Have you already withered at that age? Ah, or is it that you vent your sexual desires in those kinds of stores?」

Certainly, when it comes to some particular women, it can get quite troublesome.

「You... You turn bright red when it's regarding yourself, but it's all right when it comes to others?」

Well, *maa*, in my previous life, it seems that I've been taken care of in those kinds of stores I just talked about.

That kind of thing is necessary for a gentleman, because I know about it *ne*.⁹

Since it's an unknown thing for myself, I simply have no immunity, you know?

「*n, ahem. Maa*, because of those reasons, I don't have a fiancée.」

「*Haa*, then I have no choice but to wait until the rumors disappear, is what you're saying.」

'People's rumors lasts 75 days' is what it's called but, it hasn't even passed twenty days since I've come to this world, I believe it'll be a matter in the far future but...

「And so, what are you going to do today, Sakura? Are you going to accept a commission today?」

What a forceful way to change the subject *ne*.

Maa, I'll get on that.

「No, I think I'll search for a boarding house today. For the time being, since I plan on having this town as my base, it seems that it's greatly economical from the story I heard yesterday too, and I'll also be able to cook my own meals as well. Because of that, I planned on heading to the guild to hear about it.」

Though it would be good if I can find a good boarding house...

「I see, then I'll come along with you for a little. What will you be doing, *Len-doushi*?」

Eh? The Prince is coming along? Wouldn't it be bad if he doesn't return...?

「I'll be returning to the castle. Since I also have work to do. I'll convey it to his Majesty, so please take your time.」

Will that be okay? Prince.

our couple's first house hunting session

Notes

1. それが何故か心地よく感じ、無意識に腕の力を強めてしがみついてしまいます。
2. それだけでもわたしの顔は火を噴きそうですが、その後のことも聞いておかなければいけません。
3. 昨日着ていたのですが、緊急事態の今は時間優先です。
4. 言っておいて下さればこういった野暮なことは控えましたのに。
5. 自分でそんなことを言うと、なんだか羞恥プレイを受けている気分です。
6. 仮にも一国の王子が伝令みたいな使いつ走りに立候補って…。
7. だから、原因の王子が言うなってことですよ。
8. そう、そもそも王子にきちんとしたお相手がいるなら、こんなことがあっても火遊び程度としか思われないはずです。
9. 殿方にはそういったことも必要だ、というのは知っているつもりですね。

Chapter 38 ~ Moving Preparations

Chapter 38 – Moving Preparations.

In the end, Len-san immediately returned to the castle, the Prince and I decided to have breakfast.

Seeing me and the Prince eating breakfast together, the innkeeper had a complicated expression for some reason, I ignored him since I didn't understand what it meant.

Finishing breakfast, we headed straight to the guild.

It was exactly at the time in the morning when it was crowded, I asked the usual receptionist *onee-san*, and was told to go to the second floor.

It seems these kinds of consultations are received on the second floor.

Leaving the crowded first floor, we move to the second floor.

Immediately ascending to the second floor, there was a reception desk.

「Good morning. I heard that I could receive information on boarding houses here, but.」

I ask the man at the reception while displaying my adventurer card.

「Aa, yes. So it's Fujino Sakura-san. Ee, are you searching for a boarding house? The only information we have are about the contractors. If you have any requirements we can satisfy in advance, we can introduce you to a contractor.」¹

This man stiffened for only a moment after seeing my adventurer's card, but immediately replied like nothing happened.

「That's right, the first would be a place where I can cook my own food. And also a place with a bath that can be entered anytime would be the best.

Although I don't have any particular requirements on the location, if possible, an area with reasonably well public order would be great *ne.*」

「Let me see, a place with good public order, which means it would be this contractor. This will substitute as a letter of introduction. As for where this contractor is on the map... it should be here. The contractor is called Quintar.」

Receiving a wooden tag with the guild's emblem, I confirm the contractor's location.

「Quintar-san *ne.* Thank you very much.」

I head towards the contractor according to on the map.

「Good morning. I received an introduction to this place from the guild.」

It's a shop that seems to be remodelled from a small and ordinary one story house, it appears the so-call Quintar is a realtor.

「Yes, Welcome, thank you for coming to Quintar. Please allow me to let me verify the letter of introduction from the guild. Yes, certainly. Would you like information regarding boarding houses?」²

After receiving the wooden tag from me, the business talk immediately started.

「Yes I would like that please. My requirements are to be able to cook, and be able to take a bath anytime. And also a location with a good public order.」

Just like in the guild, I convey my desires.

「Let me see, perfect, there's an excellent room for our valued customer, but... Although the price suffers from being slightly higher than the market price, would that be okay?」

How much is market price? Since I don't have knowledge in that area...

「Umm, how much is it?」

「Yes, it's a one month contract for 30 silvers. Although it might feel expensive because the market price is 15~20 silvers, the location is excellent and it's a room I can recommend.」

30 silvers, that's the rate of ten days at my current inn huh.

It's alright compared to that *ne*.

As expected, it's more expensive to live in an inn.

「I'd like to look at the room once but, will that be okay?」

「Yes, there's no problem. Shall we go now?」

Of course.

With the real estate agent-san guiding us, we travel once again.

「It's here.」

We were guided to a stand-alone two story house with a garden.

Though it looks cosy, it appears to be tightly built with bricks and wood. The location is also close to the Royal Castle, This place is only one street away from the main street.

「Well then, I'll guide you inside.」

The real estate agent-san unlocks and enters inside.

? ?

Is there nobody living in here?

After entering inside, the entrance hall, hallway, living room, kitchen, bath, toilet, and bedroom, it feels very much like an ordinary house.

We continued to be guided to the second floor, but there were only two rooms with a balcony and one room without a balcony.

There was nothing particularly unusual with the rooms, they were very ordinary rooms.

「Umm, does nobody live here? Even though the rooms seem very normal?」

I'd feel troubled unless this question gets answered *ne*.

「Yes, the person who lived in this house before had moved out. Afterwards, it was decided to be used as a boarding house. Because this house is a single

boarding house, it doesn't look or feel any different than an ordinary house. The current furniture and *et cetera* are fine to be used as well.]

Then that isn't a boarding house, it's a house for rent...

How should I put it, it's so cheap with 30 silvers...

「As for the owner of this house, his children are independent and his wife has passed away too. It appears he decided to live together with his child and decided to part with the house. It seems he was an adventurer long ago, it was said he wanted it to be managed as a boarding house for adventurers to use. But then, since that only happened a few days ago, our valued customer has very good luck.」

I see, so there wasn't something in particular that made him part with it.

However, although it feels too spacious to live here alone...

But since it's a stand-alone house, I'm unhesitant, I'm very fond of it.³

Even though it's small, there's also a garden.

Since there's also furniture, the things I was lacking has been supplemented for so they've saved me the trouble.

「Well then, I'll take this place. When can I move in?」

「Let me see, since the cleaning up and *et cetera* will be carried out tomorrow, you can move in the day after tomorrow in the morning. Aa, there's no problem if you bring in your daily life necessities today.」

While returning to the store, I listened to an explanation regarding the contract.

With the boarding house's contract completed, we returning to the main street, it seems the Prince will return to the castle.

「It's good that you settled on a boarding house without any problems. Well then, I'll be returning to the castle. See you later, Sakura.」

「Take care too, Prince. About the rumors, please clear the misunderstandings properly, okay?」

While the Prince expresses a wry smile at my words, he walks towards the castle.

Now then, it would be bad if I don't buy the necessities I'll need.

Firing myself up again, firstly, I'll return to the inn to bring my rucksack along in order to carry the baggage.

Tableware to kitchen utensils, bed sheets for pillows and blankets... Aa, a cleaning magic tool and a bath magic tool is also necessary.

In addition, soaps and face towels, there are many necessary items surprisingly.

Visiting various stores in one day, I purchased the necessary and desired things for my new daily life.

I carried them myself into the new house, for the things I couldn't carry, I had them requested to be delivered in two days time.

Just in case, in order to be safe when I have visitors (although currently I don't have any plans), I had prepared several tableware. I also purchased and prepared two sets of beddings.

Since the furniture was left as it was, I'm thankful that I could invest in other things.

With that, the day ends.

On the second day, I'll visit Graham-san's place in the afternoon. Other than that, I plan to look around for seasonings and ingredients. When I think about it, looking around town while shopping like this, isn't this the first time I've done this since I've came to this world?

I ask the innkeeper about which have seasonings and ingredients. This kind of information gathering is important *ne*.

Oh right, because a large refrigerator(-like magic tool) was also left in the boarding house, it helps me out a lot since it can preserve food the same way like

in Japan.

Although I've explained magic tools in the past, their source of power is normally from the remains of mana within the atmosphere, that is decomposed energy.

Standard magic tools automatically absorb that energy, and converts it into a power source.

However, to keep it running for a long period of time, the current refrigerator lacks a sufficient source of power. And so as a result, a storage for mana called『Magic stone』, a battery so to speak, has to be used. Although this『Magic stone』naturally recovers, the speed increases considerably when a magician is in possession of it. It seems it absorbs the mana which continuously leaks out from magicians. Although I can't use sorcery, since I also leak out mana, I should be able to recover it if I'm in possession of it.

While visiting the stores the innkeeper told me about, I bought some seasonings and ingredients.

It's been a long time since I've cooked, there are various things I'd like to eat. Although there's no *miso* or soy sauce as expected, there's still vinegar, sugar and et cetera. But then, vinegar is slightly more expensive than brown sugar.

The items I purchased has been requested to be delivered tomorrow morning (it seems because of the large quantity, it was a free service), I ate lunch at a street stall, and now I'm heading to Graham-san's store.

From Graham-san's store, first I received the completed katana, afterwards I checked the leather armor that's in the middle of production. Examining it against my body, it was attached on me with string to confirm the size.⁴

It seems there aren't any problems for now.

It'll be completed by tomorrow evening, since it needs to be given to the magic technician, we decided that I'll go try it on if there's enough time.

Hanging the katana that I bought on my waist, I use the remaining time to look for spices and accessories.

While in the middle of shopping, I encountered a pair of knights in the middle of patrolling.

The knights for some reason or another, although I gave a light greeting while we pass each other, from behind after passing⁵

「*Oi, it's that girl, from that rumor...*」「*Eh? No matter how you look at it... is it really that child?*」

those kinds of voices were heard.

When I looked over my shoulder, the knights from just now were looking at me.

Just as I was thinking ‘what is it?’, the knights immediately went somewhere else.

Although I was slightly bothered, since nothing came to mind, I decided to forget about it.

I purchased several spices and glass bottles and completed today’s shopping.

Since I’m finally in an environment where I can cook, I’d like to make my own fluffy bread and eat it.

I can make apple yeast and use it to make the bread.

While recalling of the process, I bought an apple and some sugar.

I began to make yeast immediately at the inn.

the Prince this chapter ~> ...it's like he wasn't even there...

Notes

1. あらかじめ、希望があればそれに応じた業者を紹介できますが？」
2. はい、確かに。ご用件は下宿のご案内でよろしいでしょうか？」
3. それでも一戸建てなら気兼ねなく、好きなようにできますね。
4. 身体に当ててみたり、その状態で紐で固定してサイズを確認したり。
5. その騎士達になんとなく、軽く会釈をしてすれ違いましたが、通り過ぎた後に後ろから

Chapter 39 ~ At the New Home

~things to know before reading~

MAGIC(NEW)=/=SORCERY(PREVIOUSLY CALLED MAGIC) ~ (been changed in all previous chapters, so please ignore if it was already called sorcery for you)

Chapter 39 – At the new house.

「Alright, all done.」

The first thing I did after returning to the inn was to draw a glyph on one of the glass bottles.

Ah, a glyph? Before, because I was a magic technician in my previous life, I can draw glyphs. Though I don't have the tools.

Although the effects are inferior without an official tool, a magic tool can more or less be completed.

It also reduces the time it takes to engrave a glyph. The effect of this glyph accelerates the time within the glass bottle.

From my memory, it takes approximately six days to make the yeast.

Most likely, the speed of time within the glass bottle has been accelerated manyfold. Ah, if I had done it yesterday, it could've been completed tomorrow if it went smoothly...

I washed the apple and cut it into the appropriate size, added water and sugar and...

Finally, I closed the lid with a cork and lightly shook it, with that, the preparations are completed.

Afterwards, I'll check on its situation whenever I can and stir it.

Now then, I'll leave it in the room and go have dinner.

Having my last dinner in this inn, I told the innkeeper I'll be moving tomorrow morning.

Since I still have a few days left from paying the inn fees in advance, I'll be given a refund tomorrow morning. The innkeeper hated to part with me and said he would treat me to some alcohol, I politely declined.

After finishing my meal, I returned to my room then entered the bath.

Thinking that this will also be my last time taking a bath here, I felt somewhat moved.

When I returned from the bath and was drying my hair, I accidentally noticed it.

The bottle that was cultivating yeast.

I thought I misjudged at first, however, when I took a better look, it had clouded with a subtle whiteness.

Huh...? This situation, should only happen after one day if I'm not mistaken...

It's been... less than two hours since I prepared it. *Eh?* The acceleration is over ten times?

For the time being, I shook the bottle lightly, then removed the lid and checked it.

It really has turned cloudy after all...

Even using an official tool to make a high quality magic tool, it should be around five times at the most.

If I think about it... magic?

Is it because I'm from a different world, the glyphs I draw have a stronger effect...?

When I look at the glyphs that were filled in with magic, I feel like it has slightly dimmed.

Although it isn't clear at this point, it's possible that the glyphs I've filled with magic has a powerful effect, but the duration is extremely short.

What I mean by that is, it's probable that it's necessary for me to stir the bottle every two hours tonight... My sleep...

pichichichi... chirpchirp

Good morning. It's morning.

Because I woke up many times throughout the night, I'm lacking sleep.

Just as expected, the magic tool's acceleration effect is a little over ten times. And the glyph too, it has faded over time.

Right now, the glyph only has a faint glow remaining.

Eh? How did the yeast turn out?

It looks to be almost completed.

The foam which appeared not long ago has just began to settle, it should stabilize in just a little longer.

Completing my morning preparations, after gathering my luggage, I ate breakfast, cleared up the accounts of the inn then returned to my room.

For the finishing touches to the naturally cultivated yeast, I filtered it with a clean cloth and moved it to a different bottle.

The bottle which was used to cultivate yeast was washed clean.

The glyph is already at the point where I can't tell whether I can see it or not, that's how pale it is.¹

So the duration a little over half a day.

Finishing dressing, I bid farewell to this inn which has taken care of me for approximately twenty days.

After looking around the room once more, I descend to the first floor.

As well as some parting words to the people of the inn, I head towards the real estate agent-san to receive the keys to my new home.

Entering the boarding house, my first job is to tidy up the items I carried in two days ago.

There's a surprising amount when they're all piled inside the living room.

Firstly, the tableware and kitchen utensils were carried to the kitchen and put away.

After completing that, I carried the daily life articles into their respective rooms.

Just as I thought I had finally finished tidying up, my ingredients arrived immediately.

After putting away the newly arrived ingredients, it had already became lunch time.

For today's lunch, since I was running around tidying up, I had nothing prepared.

I decided to have something light from a stall on the main street.

Finally being in an environment where I can cook, and my first meal is from a stall...

After finishing lunch, I pull myself together and start my dinner preparations.

Since it's been so long, I want it to be a little luxurious.

Firstly, I make bread from the natural yeast that had completed earlier than planned.

However, because it takes time for the yeast to ferment, I'll use magic again.

Mixing the wheat flour and yeast, I leave it to ferment in a bowl that's been temporarily made into a magic tool.

I make pasta in the meantime.

With ingredients such as wheat flour and eggs laid out, I mixed them together.

After I finished mixing, I kneaded and kneaded it, then placed it in a new bowl.

In the meantime, I prepared the soup and had the garnishes arranged.

At the time those had finished, since it seems the first stage of the yeast's fermentation had completed, I divided them up into pieces and rolled them up, then placed it inside the pseudo-refrigerator.

I take a temporary break, I'll resume making dinner after the break.

At least until both the pasta dough and yeast appears to be completed.

I'm making the popular pastas in Japan, the long pasta spaghettini and macaroni.

Until those preparations are done, I headed over to Graham-san's store even though it's slightly early.

When I arrived at the store, it seems it was roughly finished so I immediately tried on the clothing.

I put on the breastplate, then proceed to put on the wrist and leg parts.

Since I'm wearing hotpants today, I get slightly sore when it touches my skin.

When I conveyed that,

「*Oi, jou-chan. Normally, ya'd wear it on top of trousers.*」

and laughed.

If it's something I can wear on top of my bare skin, then it would be chausses, or tights? 'It'll be fine if you put on something like an over-kneesock then wear it on top', is what he instructed me.²

It seems the clothing store has some if I go there.

Since there wasn't any other problems, I left the rest to him and headed to the clothing store.

Getting straight to the point, they had it.

But, how do I say it, it was different from what I imagined...

If I were to simply speak, thick garter stockings? I think? The colors were nothing but black and white.

It's not suspended by a garter belt, but the belt on your pants.

It seems there's also a type that attaches onto a garter belt.

For the time being, I purchase several of them that are black on both sides.³

I returned to the boarding house and prepared dinner.

Since there wasn't an oven, I cover the base of a kiln with a large frying pan, with an iron plate slightly raised and placed within it, it becomes a pseudo-oven.⁴

I lined up bread dough above the heated iron plate and closed it with a lid, afterwards, I adjusted the firepower as it baked.

As I was preparing, I hear a voice from the direction of the entranceway.

It seems someone has come, but.... Did the real estate agent-san forget to tell me something? Or some sort of delivery?

For the time being, I suspend my cooking and head to the entranceway.

As for who it was...

Again, it was that person...

「Good evening, Sakura. I've come to congratulate you on moving.」

「Prince.... Didn't we just part the day before yesterday...」

「*Ha ha ha.* I thought perhaps it's been too long since I've had Sakura's cooking, don't you think? The reason why I came here is to celebrate your change of residence.」

In other words, you came to cheat a meal *ne?*

「*Haa....* Is that okay? For the time being, since I'm in the middle of preparing, please come in.」

I left the Prince in the living room, then resumed the preparations.

With the bread being baked on the side, I boil the pasta and macaroni.

I decided to make a simple peperoncino today.

Once the pasta had completely boiled, I divided the macaroni into a separate bowl.

I fried some garlic, bacon and chilli peppers in olive oil inside the kiln, then threw in the cooked pasta. After leaving it to cook for a little while, it's completed.



Next, I place the soup that I prepared earlier inside the kiln.

While it's being heated up, let's make some macaroni salad.

I cut some vegetables appropriately and mixed it in a bowl.

At that moment, since the bread had finished baking, I move the bread from the simple oven into a basket. Looking at hot and steamy bread, my face unintentionally turns into a grin.

While I boiled an egg inside the kiln with hot water, the soup had completed.

A simple vegetable and consommé soup. The garnishes are potatoes, carrots, onions and cabbages.



consommé soup with a little extra yummies

I adequately crushed the boiled egg and threw it into the macaroni salad. I poured some improvised mayonnaise and mixed it, with that, it's completed.



After arranging the completed dishes on the table, I called out the Prince.

The Prince cheerfully sits down.

It feels like I'm looking at him shaking and wagging his tail.

Meanwhile, I fill some cups with chilled milk, then I also sit down on my seat after the preparations had been completed.

「These seem delicious. There's a lot of dishes I've never seen before. What kind of dishes are these?」

Like a child, he gazes at the dishes with glittering eyes.

While wryly smiling at his childishness, I explain the dishes.

「Firstly, this is a dish called peperoncino. Do you know about pasta? I believe it's a dish from a southern country. I also added garlic, bacon and chilli peppers for flavour. Although slightly spicy, it's delicious. Over here is also similarly a type of pasta called macaroni, which was used to make a salad. It's been mixed with mayonnaise. Do you remember it? Mayonnaise. The sauce which was used on the dish I first served. Then the consommé soup. This is an ordinary dish *ne*. The

garnishes are potatoes, carrots, onions and cabbages. And then the bread. I also made this bread. Now, let's we eat before it cools down.]

While nodding at each and every one of my words, he hurriedly started the pre-meal prayer after my final words.

「We thank God and the Land for their blessings」「*itadakimasu*」

「Delicious! Although it's a little hot, it makes me want to eat more.

It seems I'll be able to eat this even when the weather's hot!】

The Prince ate a mouthful of peperoncino, then started gulping it down.

「Please calm down. Since there are still other dishes. Even if you don't rush, the dishes aren't going to run away you know.】

After my words, he exchanges the peperoncino with the soup, while saying「delicious」again, he starts on the salad.

Eating like a schoolchild that's gone without lunch, I started on my own portion while feeling happy as I myself made it.

By the way, the Prince has two portions while I have one. Probably because of my size, I couldn't eat that much from the beginning.

Several days worth of portions, was what I thought of making so I used up almost all the pasta.

「What's this? Is this bread? It's whiter, softer and fluffier than the ones I've eaten so far... It's my first time having such a bread...】

Putting the naturally leavened bread in his mouth, he halted like he was deeply moved.

「Please put it in the soup and try eating it. The soup soaks into the bread and it'll have a different taste you know.】

As I advised, he tears a piece off the bread, dips it in the soup and puts it in his mouth.

It's true... It's my first time having such a delicious bread... Sakura is a genius at cooking!】

「This sort of bread is normal in my country. I only made it by imitating that.】

As expected, it's embarrassing when I'm openly praised
It can't be helped that my cheeks have turned slightly red.
The dinner full of smiles continues on peacefully.

Although I made a somewhat large dinner, most of it has disappeared into the Prince's stomach.

Just in case, I serve the Prince, who's a guest, some tea after the meal, and clean up the emptied tableware.

When I went to the living room after finishing the washing, the Prince rushed out these words.

「Sakura, about the celebrations for your moving. Isn't there anything you want? You should discover something after living here, there's something lacking right? Try saying anything.」

Something lacking, huh. Even if you suddenly say that...

Ah, that's right.

「Now that you mention it, I think it would be nice if there was an oven *ne*.」

「When you say oven, is it the magic tool which bakes that bread?」

「Yes, that oven. If there was an oven, I'll be able to bake cookies, and also pies *ne*. However, since it's difficult to deal with a firewood oven, and because of the cost of a magic tool oven, it's quite troublesome *ne*.」

Right, the size of a firewood oven is large, the temperature control also seems difficult for an amateur. Compared with a magic tool oven, although the size is small and it's easy to control, the price also makes up for it. Even the cheapest ones are something like 1 gold coin. The one I desire costs 3 gold coins.

Although I can buy it... My current money I possess is less than 9 gold coins. Since there's the payment for my armor, 8 gold coins will be deducted from that. Since there are no guarantees after this, unless it's an absolute necessary, it would be better for me to refrain from purchasing expensive goods.

It's different if there's a cheap intermediary though...

「fumu, an oven huh... Well, I don't have any knowledge on those. Although I can't promise anything, I'll try ask about it and see what they come up with.」⁵
eh?

「Nonono, something that expensive, I won't accept it even if it's a congratulatory gift! Just your feelings are fine!」

On the contrary, I'll deeply appreciate it!

「Don't worry about it. It's not like it's been decided yet. Also, if you had an oven, you'd be able to make even more variates of dishes than you can currently right? If that happens, it means the dishes I can eat will increase.」

The Prince says those things while laughing.

Eh? He's planning on coming over to eat again? Does the Prince actually have that much free time?

While thinking of such things, the Prince walked passed me and moved towards the kitchen.

「Sakura, I'm borrowing a glass. Wow, what's with these stools? Aren't they in the way?」

When I looked over, he seemed to have almost tripped over the long line of stools lined up around the kitchen.

「Without those, would I be able to reach with my height? Could you please not set them aside? I'd be in trouble without those.」

Perhaps it may be a nuisance for large people, but with my rounded up 140cm, without it, in the average sized kitchen in this world, my head won't even stick out even if I stand on my tiptoes. A large person won't understand that!

While shouting in my mind, the Prince returns with two glasses.

n? Two?

He takes out from out of nowhere, as expected, wine. Furthermore, it looks expensive.

「That, what do you intend to do with two glasses?」

The Prince dodges my eyes which I'm glaring at him with, and answers with a

light tone.

「Speaking of celebrations, there has to be alcohol, is what I've said before right? Just a sip is enough so keep me company.」

Just a sip, while saying those words, he fills up more than half a glass and leaves it in front of me.

「Really, did you already forget what happened three days ago?」

「I didn't forget. This is a good alcohol you know? Try it.」

Saying so, I tilt my glass.

Well, even though I don't know about alcohol, I can understand this is an expensive alcohol but...

「Well then, only a sip...」

Tilting my glass, I drank the seemingly expensive wine.

From my first time drinking it, there was a scarce sweetness, on the other hand, it wasn't bitter either.

'So this is expensive alcohol', was the only kind of impression I had.

When I swallowed it, a sweet fragrance of grapes escaped from my nose, the fragrance of alcohol came afterwards.

This, might be quite a strong alcohol...?

When I looked over at the Prince, he was happily watching me drink.

「I drank a sip but.... What should I do about the rest?」

「Don't worry. I'll drink it.」

The Prince gulps down his own glass in one go, and reaches out his hand for my glass.

「Wait! Drinking something that someone has drank from, please stop it!」

Isn't that an indirect...!

Nonono, even if it's not that, for a Prince to do such a thing!⁶

「What are you saying? Sakura isn't drinking the rest right? Since it's such a

good alcohol, would you do such a wasteful thing and throw it away?」

「Then shouldn't you have poured just enough for a sip at the beginning!?」

「A portion just for a sip, the appearance wouldn't be pleasant right?」

Well, certainly, something like only pouring a bit to fill the bottom of the glass, it wouldn't even look tasty.

「It's not about the appearance *ne*. How do I say it... Aa, *mou!* I'll be drinking this myself, so please drink from your own glass, Prince!」

In one go, I gulped down the remaining wine.

「Ah, wait!」

The Prince said something, but I ignore it.

tan, I place the glass on the table and look at the Prince.

「With that, there's no... problem..... *ne*...」

With a violent shake, my vision warps.

Huh? How did this happen...?

At that point, my consciousness had cut off.

Notes

1. 古代文字もすでに見えるかどうか、と言う程度の薄さです。
2. 素肌の上につけるならショースという、タイツ？オーバーニーソックスのような物を穿いた上につければいいと、教えてもらいました。
3. 一応、黒で両方を何点か購入しておきます。
4. オーブンがないので、竈に底の深い、大きめのフライパンをかけて、その中に鉄板を少し浮かせて敷き疑似的なオーブンにします。

5. 「ふむ、オープンか…。そうだな、心当たりがないでもない。約束はできんが聞いてみるだけ聞いてみよう」
6. いやいやいや、そうじゃなくても仮にも王子がそんなど！

Chapter 40 ~ My First...

~things~

hetare ~ incompetent, lazy, worthless, good for nothing, loser.

Chapter 40 – *(highlight to view)*

Slowly, my consciousness surfaces from within the darkness.

The first thing I recognized wasn't my own warmth. But a firm, large and pleasant warmth.

Somehow, I have a feeling I don't want to lose it, so I cling on tighter.

Did I put too much strength? The warmth moved with a twitch.

...Huh...? It feels similar to something recently...

With that thought being stuck in the corner of my mind, I tried to perceive the situation with my still unclear head.

patapata

Firm, it seems to be the body of a person.

Slowly, I raise my head.

The person that appeared was...

「Prince Sedrim...」

I look at the sleeping Prince's face while frowning.

Then, I was clinging onto...?

Lowering my gaze from the Prince's face, the colour of flesh was in front of me.

It's the Prince's arm.

Straight away, I recall the scene from the other day.

And just like that day, I'm presently naked.

「!!!」

Separating from his arm I was clinging onto, I got up, grabbed the blanket and hid my body.

「Ouch!」

A dull pain ran through my abdomen.

「Eh?」

While being wrapped up in the blanket, timidly, I check the situation.

On top of the brand new pure white sheets, there was a dark red stain. And I feel a dull pain in my abdomen.

When I reached down my hand, there was a raw lukewarm feeling.

There was sticky blood on my hand.

I was dumbstruck by this expected event.

Eh? What's this situation.... Why's there blood...? No way, no way no way no way...!?

But this pain, it's what my classmate had talked about...

Is it, as I feared...?

The moment I thought that, a sense of loss from losing something important welled up.

poro...

「A lie...」

When I touched the warmth drifting down my cheeks, it was tears.

As soon as I was aware of it, my tears overflowed like rain.

「This, can't be.」

Without being able to hold back my tears, it poured out one after another.

「No way, no waay...」

Because I was crying and didn't notice,

「What's wrong...? What happened? Why are you crying...?」

the Prince who had awoken, called out to me as I was crying.

「No way, how crueel. Doing something like that while I was asleep.... Stuupid Prince.」

Although he's a *hetare*, even though he's a weird prince, but even then, I believed he wouldn't do such a thing.

Feeling betrayed, my tears poured out once again.

「What do you mean, suddenly calling me stupid. What happened? Can you tell me the reason without crying? How come you're crying so much?」

Although with a slightly peevish tone, he talks gently and tries to get information out of me.¹

「*Sniff*, because, Prince, such a thing... *sniff*, waaaaaaaaaa.」

My tears welled up midway through my words.

「That's why, if you don't say it clearly, how can I understand anything?」

With me unable to hold back my tears no matter what, I slightly shifted my body and pointed towards the stain on the sheets.

「Still, blood..., *sniff*, it, hasn't stopped.」

Looking at the stain left on the sheets, then at me who's continuously crying, the Prince was awfully shaken.

「The blood hasn't stopped, what do you mean? No, leaving that aside, this blood is...?」

「Pri...nce, how, horrible. Even feigning, ignorance.」

Was I, always this weak?

It was certainly a shock.

I haven't been interested in stuff like this so far, I had thought I wouldn't be in a relationship for a long time, was what I mostly thought before this incident.^{2!!}

After all, I lack the charm of a woman since my body is small and has little flesh.

But I didn't think I would pour out so much tears to that extent.³

Maybe, I believed. That the Prince wouldn't do something like that to me.

That Prince who only loves adult-like women brimming with 'charm'.

The moment I thought of that, a pain ran through my heart.

「*Eh?* Feigning ignorance..., *eh*, perhaps...? No wait! I didn't do it! I didn't do anything you know!？」

Before I could think about the pain, I heard the Prince's words.

Didn't do anything he says, then, what, is this situation...?

This blood...? This pain...?

While also feeling sadness, I seethed into anger.

「You're horrible! Didn't do anything in this situation, you say! This blood! The pain I feel in my stomach! Didn't do anything, you say, then what's going on!？」

Too irresponsible!

After I shouted, my stomach oozed in pain.

「I also don't understand! In any case! I'll call some people over, so obediently stay here! Okay?!」

The Prince left behind those words, then hurriedly left the room.

After the Prince left the room, various things popped up into my head as they spun round and round.

Being my first time for something like this, it's too horrible.

As for what I can remember, it's only up until I drank a large amount of wine.

The Prince should've carried me here.

The memories of the new house, eating a self-cooked meal after so long, and smiling.

And when I woke up, this situation occurred.

Once again, my tears starts pouring out.

My first partner is the Prince. After thinking about it, that sort of thing in itself isn't that unpleasant, when I thought of that, I was a little surprised⁴. *Maa*, I would've offered it up to someone eventually anyway...

That is, the partner for my first time being a person I loved, or something, it wasn't like I never had those kinds of thoughts but...

Even though he's a *hetare*, he's kind in his own way, I also understand he pays attention to me...⁵

However, doing that while I was asleep can't be forgiven.

Ah, what am I going to do if I get pregnant...

What happens if a child is born from this...

The child of the Prince and myself...?

After thinking that far, I realize my face had gone red.

Nonono, in the first place, it's not possible for me to have a child yet!

Huh...?

Something's not right.⁶

Before I could think about it, with a *batabata*, I realized someone was coming.

「Sakura-sama!」

Raising my head towards the voice, a lady in a maid uniform was there.

「Eh? Chiffon-san...?」

Notes

1. 少し、拗ねた口調で、それでも優しく話を聞きたそうとします。
2. 今までそんなことに興味はありませんでしたし、まだしばらくは自分には関係のない、そう言ったことをするとしても、大分先の事だと思っていました。*(I butchered this one...)*
3. でもそれだけで、こんなに涙があふれるとは思ってもみませんでした。
4. 考えてみて、それ自体はそんなに嫌なことじゃない、と思うことに、ちょっと驚きます。
5. ヘタレだけれど、それなりに優しいし、気も使ってくれているのもわかりますし....。

6. 何かが引っかかりました。

Chapter 41 ~ The Prince, Maid-san and I

~things to know before reading~

ara ~ something like ‘oh my/oh/ah’ that’s usually said by high class ojousamas(?), will be said a lot by Chiffon.

hetare ~ incompetent, lazy, worthless, good for nothing, loser.

there's also a few sound effects which I've left jp since I didn't know what they meant or how to translate it.

Chapter 41 – The Prince, Maid-san and I

「Eh? Chiffon-san...?」

The maid from the castle, Chiffon-san, was here.

Chiffon-san looked at me, who was shedding tears, then looked at the stain on the sheets, and then glared at the Prince that was standing at the entrance of the room.

「Your Highness Prince Sedrim, what is going on here?」

Chiffon-san questions the Prince in a low voice, whilst restraining her anger.

「I didn't do anything. I'll swear an oath. Sakura was already crying when I woke up. I thought if it's you, you'd be able to listen to her story, so I bought you here. I won't discover anything if it's me, so please take a look at Sakura.」

「...I understand. Since I'll be listening to her story, please wait in another room, Your Highness.」

With a low voice, Chiffon-san said to the Prince and drove him out of the room, and approached my direction.

「Sakura-sama, it's been a while. What has happened?」

Being asked with a gentle voice, tears starts pouring out of my eyes again.

「Chiffon-saaaan.」

I buried my face in Chiffon-san's chest as she sat down on the bed, and spoke those words while crying.

「I, don't understand. Yesterday, wine, drank, and then, *sniff*, I don't, remember. When I woke up, the blood, it hurt.... The Prince said, he didn't know, *sniff*, what should, I do...」

Because I was crying, Chiffon-san patiently listened to my disconnected words.

「That stupid Prince...! Such a small child!」

Huh? I think I heard a strange voice...?

「So then..., does it still hurt? *Uh*, that area...?」

「*Umm, ne*, it's like, throbbing pain, *sniff*, and oozy, my stomach, inside hurts. Blood too, won't stop.... *sniff*.」

「*Hmm?* Inside, of the stomach? Oozy? And also, won't stop bleeding you say... Perhaps...?」

Having something suddenly come to mind, Chiffon-san slightly ponders over it.

「*Umm*, Sakura-sama? Sakura-sama is, more or less, 15 years old right? *Uh*, this is extremely awkward to ask but.... Have you had that time of the month?」

More or less, what do you mean more or less? I'm a legitimate 15 year old.

「*Eh?* That time of the month...?」

Unable to understand the sudden question, she asked again.

「*Uh*, when a child's body becomes able to give birth, that kind of thing.」

So the event of menstruation?

「*Eh?* *aah*, no, not yet, but...?」

「Excuse me, I'll be a little impolite *ne*. Even though this will be embarrassing, please bear with it.」

With that said, Chiffon-san knocked my body down onto the bed facing up, then suddenly spread out my legs.

「*Eh?* *EEH!*? What!? Chiffon-san??」

With my situation with my legs being spread out, laying down facing upwards, the blanket was also stripped off.¹

And then between my spread out legs, Chiffon-san was...

What is this, this situation...?

「Please calm down. Because I'm examining it a little. If possible, don't move and relax your body.」

Eh? Eh?

Looking at me being confused with a ? mark floating above my head, Chiffon-san smiles.

「*Ara? Ufufu*, Sakura-san has nothing growing *ne*. It's also pretty here *ne. ufufufu*. Your chest is also pretty.... *Ara?* This is becoming a little exciting *wa*.」

Somehow, the atmosphere has become dangerous!

「Wai—, Chiffon-san! Come back!？」

Being surprised by my voice, Chiffon-san's expression changed.

「*Ara, excuse me. cough.* I will be examining Sakura-sama's body for a little *ne*. It's all right. Because there won't be anything to fear.」

Somehow, there's something suspicious from those words!

「*n*」

From Chiffon-san's finger touching me there, I unintentionally let out my voice.

I realized that place was slowly being spread as it came in contact with air.

When I tried to see what was happening, I saw Chiffon-san peeping into it.

「Chiffon-san! What are you doing!？」

With a flushed face, I reflexively tried to close my legs, but Chiffon-san's body was there so I wasn't able to close them.

「Since I'm almost done, please hold still okay?」

Those words, aren't they incredibly suspicious!?

Something entered inside me.

「fua」

From that feeling, a voice escaped from my mouth.

Shortly after, that something moved around inside of me as if searching for something, then it was suddenly taken out.

Afterwards, I realized Chiffon-san had separated from me.

Grabbing the blanket in a panic, I wrapped myself up.

「Sakura-sama. Congratulations.」

Huh? Congratulations? What...?

「This blood comes from that time of the month you see. From today, Sakura-sama has become an adult woman.」

「Eh...? Then, the Prince and I, didn't do it...?」

「Right, I checked it just now but there wasn't any lacerations in the surroundings, since I also confirmed your mark of chastity, I believe it's certainly that time of the month.」

Then, so I'm still, a virgin....

As I felt relieved, Chiffon-san wonderingly asked.

「In the first place, why did you think it was that kind of thing? And also, how come His Highness was here?」

From those questions, my body trembled with a *biku*.

While being flustered, I somehow give an explanation.

「Umm, I'm, incredibly weak to alcohol, yesterday, I drank some wine the Prince brought over. And then, I lost consciousness, *ne*. When I woke up, I was naked, the Prince was sleeping besides me, then the blood. That's why, *umm*.」

「In other words, His Highness encouraged you to drink alcohol, even though you were weak to it, you drank it and lost consciousness. When you woke up, you were lying naked in bed, and His Highness was sleeping besides you. You saw the blood on the sheets so you thought *that* had happened, is what you mean?」

Amazing, she understood from my explanation?

I nodded to Chiffon-san's words with a *koukoku*. (*nodding sound effect*)

「His Highness, does he know Sakura-sama is weak to alcohol?」

「He knows.... Since this happened last time as well...」

When she heard those words, in amazement, Chiffon-san muttered with an angry expression.

「That stupid Prince! What is he doing!」

Huh? I'm hallucinating again...

「*Cough.* Then, does Sakura-sama have knowledge about that time of the month?」

I have basic knowledge from being taught at school.

「I know the basics.... However, about what I need to do...」

I know to use sanitary pads in Japan, but I don't know how it's done in this world. After all, I was a man in my previous life.

「Is that so, generally, it's either a cloth pad that would be pressed against your body by placing it in your underwear, or inserting a filling. For women who move around a lot, it seems they often use the filling. As for the cloth pad, it could slip out of your underwear and get blood stained on your clothes. Since Sakura-sama is an adventurer, wouldn't the filling be better?」

That filling, is it the thing called a tampon in Japan?

Eh? Directly inserting it? That might, be scary...

「*Eeh,* isn't it scary to use the filling? If possible, the cloth pad would be better~ *haha...*」²

「If you don't move around intensively, the cloth pad would be fine but... As an adventurer, that might be slightly difficult *ne*. There's also your physical condition... Which reminds me, how's your physical condition, Sakura-sama?」

Eh? Physical condition, *aah*, come to think of it, a classmate said it could be something like it being serious or minor, could it be that?³

「My stomach slightly hurts. Also my body is a little sluggish, or should I say, it

feels heavy.]

「Do you feel anything like feeling sick?」

「As for how I feel...probably, I think I'm fine.」

After hearing my answers, Chiffon-san smiles.

「It appears Sakura-sama is only minorly affected. As for the serious effects, it would hurt so much you wouldn't be able to move, you'll also feel sick enough to throw up.」

Uwaa, that seems terrible ne.

I'm glad, it's only minor.

「However, since your condition can become more serious because of various reasons, I suggest if you take a rest if you feel your physical condition worsen.」

U—n, compared to a man, a lady has it hard ne.

「Well then, because after I explain this to His Highness, I'll need to do some shopping, Sakura-sama, let me see. A skirt would be preferred today. Could you change into your clothes then wait for me? *Aah, please apply a suitable clean cloth in your underwear okay?*」

With me nodding, Chiffon-san peeled off the stained sheets and I watched her leave.

I could hear the voices the Prince and Chiffon-san talking on the other side of the door.

Just like I was told, I took out a one-piece dress and wore it.

Having sat down after I finished changing, with the sound of a knock, I hear the Prince's voice.

「Sakura, is it all right if I enter?」

For some reason or another, although I feel it's awkward, I was the one who caused him to worry...^{4!!}

「.....Feel free.」

I believe it couldn't be helped that I had a cold tone.

「I heard the story from Chiffon. I'm sorry, that, if you didn't drink the alcohol last night, I believe it wouldn't have ended up in such an uproar. I was fooling around because I wanted to tease a little and see your reaction. I apologize.」

Saying that, the Prince lowered his head.

「.....It's already fine. It seems nothing has happened. Since I also think it was my fault for drinking.」

「I see. Then, *uh*, how's your physical condition? You don't feel anything like feeling sick?」

He's so nervous, so timid...

According to what I see, the situation of this large fully grown man has an atmosphere like he's peeking at me like a dog, and because I heard him speak like that, I unintentionally blew out some air.⁵

「*pu, -giggle-*.... Prince, right now, you have an amazingly pitiable expression you know?」

「Mm? Is that so? I'm acting as my usual self but...」

That frown, as well as the pitiable atmosphere he's giving off.⁶

「*Ahahaha, mou*, even if you worry that much, I'm fine. Although I'm sluggish and slightly in pain, it seems it's only minor from what Chiffon-san told me.」

Laughing while answering, the Prince's face became more and more pathetic.

「I see. However, let me apologize once more. I'm sorry. I'll be careful not to let you drink anymore alcohol.」

「I understand. Since I'm also going to be careful.」

When I said that, the Prince gently placed his hand on my head.

Being somewhat embarrassed, I hung my head down.

Shortly after, the Prince slowly stroked my head.

What is this, this atmosphere. Somehow, I feel impatient!

「Umm! What will you do for breakfast, Prince?」

I try to somehow evade this atmosphere with those words.

「*n?* Aah, that's right. Is that okay? For me to eat here...」

「*Eh?* Yes. Although I say that, I'll only be able to make something simple.」

The Prince still continues to stroke my head with his hand.

Evasion failed!

gacha

While frantically trying to think of something, Chiffon-san came back.

「*Ara? Ara ara?* Am I disturbing...? *Ufufufu.*」

Wait! Isn't this another misunderstanding!?

「No! You're not disturbing! Welcome back, Chiffon-san!」

I hurriedly stood up, from my actions, the Prince somewhat disappointingly pulls back his hand.

「*Ara?* Is that right?」

That's right!

「W-Which reminds me! What did you go out and buy, Chiffon-san?」

If it comes to this, I'll have to forcibly change the subject.

「*Ara ara.* Well, could His Highness please leave the room for a moment? Since this is a conversation between women.」

Once again, the maid drove the Prince out of the room.

Is that okay? Prince-sama.

「Noow, Sakura-sama. Please put this on *ne.*」

After saying that, what she took out was... a small slender cloth folded up into many layers, a white triangular piece of cloth. And also a cylindrical piece of cotton...? With a string attached to it.

While accepting them for the time being, I question Chiffon-san with my eyes.

「This slender and folded cloth is a cloth pad, you attach it to your underwear when it's that time of the month. This cylindrical one is a filling. All of these can be bought from the general store or a women's clothing store.」

I somewhat understand the slender cloth.

My personal underwear are..., different from the usual g-strings, they're made from thick cloth, the string goes around the waist and links together at the stomach.

The filling one..., let's pretend we didn't see that.

「Now, Sakura-sama. Quickly try put it on *ne*.」

Then grabbed onto my shoulder, as soon as Chiffon-san embraced me, Chiffon-san's hand went up my skirt!

Even when I tried to get away, because she was hugging me so tightly, I couldn't move my body.

「Wait, please wait! What are you doing!?」

Chiffon-san who wasn't paying attention to her voice either,

「*nfufu~*. Cute♪ It's alright you know~?」

What's all right!?

In the blink of an eye, my underwear's string was untied, *pasari*, and made a sound as it fell to the floor.

「Noow, Sakura-sama? I'll teach you how to put it on okay?」

What caught my sight when I looked up was, Chiffon-san's hand grasping the filling.

My body stiffened up the moment I saw that.

While I was stiffened, she turned and embraced me from behind.

「It's not scary you know~? Because it'll be over immediately okay~?」

Chiffon-san slowly lowered her hand.

「NO, NONONONO..... NOOOOOOO!!!」

When I laid down on the bed exhausted, Chiffon-san stood up with a bright expression.

「U~, somehow, this feels strange.」

While falling prostrate on the bed, I let out a groan.

「Ufufu. that feeling will soon disappear you know? Aah, please change it at least once a day okay? Because if you leave it in, you can also get sick. Oh right, these are a gift from me. Since there's enough for this time, don't worry about using them okay? Because I've already received the payment♪.」

What payment!?

When I unconsciously looked up, Chiffon-san had both her hands in front of her chest, and happily smiled.

And then suddenly changed into a serious expression.

「Listen, Sakura-sama. If you have any troubles or worries, please consult me any time. His Highness... may be unreliable, so I'll do what I can. Things like women's troubles, ne?」

Prince, Chiffon-san has acknowledged you as a *hetare* you know?

After those words, I slowly look up at Chiffon-san.

As expected, huge...

「Umm..., then, I have one right now but...」

「Yes, what is it?」

Chiffon-san pleasantly smiles.

It seems she's having fun *ne...*

「How do you grow so big?」

From my question, she changed into a troubled smile.

「That's.... Are you talking about height?」

「No, there's that too, but.... Like your chest, and like, your butt. Chiffon-san, aren't yours big? How do you get them so big?」

Chiffon-san has an 'oh my', kind of expression.

「I see. I don't do any special in particular... However, don't you think you're also cute even when you're small, Sakura-sama?」⁷

「But, isn't it better to be big? Everyone in this country is big too. The Prince also likes it big.... After all, I don't have the charm of a woman with me being so small *ne...*」

As I continued on while hanging my head down, Chiffon-san replied like she was having fun.

「I don't think that's the case but... If you want it big no matter what, then have you heard it's beneficial if you let a gentleman massage it? Shall we try request His Highness to do it?」

When I lifted up my head from those words, I saw her face smirking at me.

「*Eh?* Why the Prince? No, leaving that aside, that's not the problem, it's impossible, impossible. Absolutely, impossible!」

When I frantically conveyed that it was impossible, Chiffon-san answered with a 'I understand' while laughing and giggling.

Afterwards, I ate breakfast together with Chiffon-san and the Prince, who was waiting in the living room.

It was simply yesterday's leftover soup and bacon and eggs, and also the bread I baked yesterday.

Today's portion of the bread I baked had disappeared.

If I don't make it again then...

By the way, Chiffon-san was surprised at my dishes, she was surprised again when she ate the bread, but that'll be a story for another time.⁸

Notes

1. わたしは両足を開いた状態で仰向けに寝転がり、毛布も剥ぎ取られています。
2. 「えっと、詰め物って怖くないですか？出来れば当て布のほうがいいかな～なんて...」
3. え？ 体調って、ああ、そういえばクラスメイトが重いとか軽いとか言っていたあれでしょうか？
4. なんとなく、気まずいと思いながらも、一応は心配させたようでしたし...。 (*I broke this one*)
5. わたしから見れば大きな身体をした、大の男か主人の機嫌を窺う犬のような雰囲気でそんなことを聞いてくるものなので、思わず吹き出していました。
6. 顔をしかめるとさらに情けない雰囲気になります。
7. ですが、小さくてもサクラ様は可愛らしいと思いますよ？」
8. ちなみにシフォンさんがわたしの料理に驚き、パンを食べてまた驚いていたのは余談です。

Chapter 42 ~ Chiffon-san's Busy Morning

author's note

Maid-san's perspective of chapters 40~41

The question of how the Prince got her involved in his search, starting from the beginning.

Chapter 42 – Chiffon-san's Busy Morning

Right now, I'm leaving the Royal Castle, the place I work in, and heading towards a certain place.

That's because, the cause of His Highness Prince Sedrim running towards a neighbour.¹

At the busy time in the morning, today too, I finished my preparations to begin work for the day.

It's around the time the head maid should be calling for me.

「Chiffon-san, His Highness Prince Sedrim has called for you. Don't worry about here, so please quickly go to the entrance of the castle.」

As I'm just a mere maid, what business would His Highness Prince Sedrim need from me?

I'm a maid in charge of the guest room. Each royalty has their own personal maid or chamberlain.

If I'm to speak of any interactions with a person of royalty, it would be when a guest meets a royalty.

In other words, there hasn't been any interactions between me and His Highness Prince Sedrim.

While I was puzzled, I quickened my steps and hurried to the assigned location

since this was a royal summon after all.

When I approached the royal castle's entrance, I saw several people gathered together ahead of me.

「So you're Chiffon. You know Sakura Fujino right?」

Standing at the centre, an unexpected name came out of His Highness Prince Sedrim .

Sakura Fujino.

It was twenty days ago, the name of a girl who stayed at the royal castle for a single day.

That girl, with long hair and black coloured hair that's unusual around this area, a small girl that didn't even look 10 years of age.

On contrary to her calm appearance, I remember her frank curiosity appropriate for her age as she asked various questions.

That sort of girl at the castle by herself, in addition, lodging as a guest of the royal family, I thought 'she must have some special circumstances right?', so I took care of her.²

Afterwards, I heard she defeated the captain of the Imperial Guards with that small body, furthermore, I was terribly surprised when I heard she was only 15 years old.

Could something have happened to that girl?

「Yes, I know her. Has something happened to her?」

I try to confirm it while being slightly nervous.

「I'm sorry but this is an urgent matter, I want to you follow me immediately. I'll explain the situation on the way.」

It seems something did happen to that child.

An urgent atmosphere was transmitted from His Highness Prince Sedrim.

「I understand.」

After I conveyed only that, His Highness Prince Sedrim turned his back and

immediately started walking, I also started to walk.

It seems from the story His Highness Prince Sedrim told me while walking, she was crying in the morning, but because he didn't know what he should do, he called for me to come since I had taken care of her before at the royal castle.

With only that much, I can't understand at all *ne*.

For now, it appears it's certain that she's sad.

By the way, why did His Highness Prince Sedrim know where Sakura-sama's house was, when I thought of that question and asked, it appears he was accompanying her at the time she was searching for a boarding house, and had been there to check on the place she was moving into.

Wouldn't he be a stalker if he takes one wrong step!?³

After confirming the necessary matters, His Highness Prince Sedrim merely said「let's hurry」and started running.

In order to not also be late, I frantically followed.

Soon after, we arrived at a single house.

This appears to her house.

Guided by His Highness Prince Sedrim, we arrived in front of a single door.

「Inside here.」

I nodded once and settled my breathing, then opened the door and entered inside.

「Sakura-sama!」

When I entered inside, what came into view was a figure of a little girl wrapped in a blanket with her head down, sitting on the bed.

After I unintentionally called out, the little girl slowly raised her head.

「Eh? Chiffon-san...?」

From her face, she must've been crying until now. Her tears continue to pour

out even now.

As I unconsciously looked away from her heartbreaking appearance, at that time, an even more shocking thing came into my view.

On the pure white sheets, a dark red, stain.

It's, blood.

I unconsciously clenched my hands.

When I shifted my sight, clothes were scattered around below the bed.

And, His Highness Prince Sedrim had called me to come at a time like this.

Turning around to His Highness Prince Sedrim behind me, I questioned him while holding back my emotions.

「Your Highness Prince Sedrim, what is going on here?」

I believe it can't be helped that my voice is low and slightly trembling.

Anyone would be doubtful if they saw this situation.⁴

「I didn't do anything. I'll swear an oath. Sakura was already crying when I woke up. I thought if it's you, you'd be able to listen to her story, so I bought you here. I won't discover anything if it's me, so please take a look at Sakura.」

Although His Highness Prince Sedrim claimed innocence, it's very hard to believe after seeing this situation.

However, my first priority is to do something about the crying girl.

「...I understand. Since I'll be listening to her story, please wait in another room, Your Highness.」

Driving out His Highness Prince Sedrim from the room, I approach the girl.

「Sakura-sama, it's been a while. What has happened?」

When I talked to the girl as gentle as possible, she opened her eyes wide, and again, burst into tears.

「Chiffon-saaan.」

As I drew close to her and sat on the bed, I embraced her small head.

「I, don't understand. Yesterday, wine, drank, and then, *sniff*, I don't, remember. When I woke up, the blood, it hurt.... The Prince said, he didn't know, *sniff*, what should, I do...」

After listening to the girl franticly bring up the story whilst crying, no matter how I think of it, I can't help but suspect His Highness Prince Sedrim had assaulted her.

「That stupid Prince...! Such a small child!」

Unintentionally, those words came out.

「So then..., does it still hurt? *Uh*, that area...?」

I somehow asked the girl in a gentle tone.

「*Umm, ne*, it's like, throbbing pain, *sniff*, and oozy, my stomach, inside hurts. Blood too, won't stop.... *sniff*.」

「*Hmm?* Inside, of the stomach? Oozy? And also, won't stop bleeding you say... Perhaps...?」

Eh? instead of a throbbing and stinging pain, it's oozy? Not *that* area, but instead the inside of the stomach? Blood won't stop...? That means...?

「*Umm*, Sakura-sama? Sakura-sama is, more or less, 15 years old right? Uh, this is extremely awkward to ask but.... Have you had that time of the month?」

‘Could it be?’, was what I thought but, I asked just in case.

It's a story I've heard but nevertheless, there are women that have that time of the month come as late as 18 years of age. Judging from her small body, I think it wouldn't be strange if she hasn't had it yet at 15 years old.

「*Eh?* That time of the month...?」

As expected, it was like this after all. From my question, ‘I don't understand the meaning’, is what I'm sensing.

「*Uh*, when a child's body becomes able to give birth, that kind of thing.」

I introduced it in that way of speaking.⁵

「*Eh? aah*, no, not yet, but...?」

Then, as expected...?

「Excuse me, I'll be a little impolite *ne*. Even though this will be embarrassing, please bear with it.」

After I told her in advance, I stripped off the blanket wrapped around her body and pushed her down onto the bed before she was able to understand the meaning, then spread opened both her legs.

「*Eh? EEH!?* What!? Chiffon-san??」

Aah, as expected, it's turn pink.

I try to speak as gently as possible.

「Please calm down. Because I'm examining it a little. If possible, don't move and relax your body.」

Although she still seems confused, as soon as I said that, her stiff body started to lose strength.

After confirming that, I shifted my attention to *that* area.

As for *there*, judging from appearance, shall we say. It was pure, like a small child's.

「*Ara? Ufufu*, Sakura-san has nothing growing *ne*. It's also pretty here *ne*. *ufufufu*. Your chest is also pretty.... *Ara?* This is becoming a little exciting *wa*.」

After checking her body, everywhere gave off a small and cute feeling.

「Wai—, Chiffon-san! Come back!?」

From her voice, my thoughts that had appeared so far had disappeared.

Ara? I, just what was I...?

「*Ara*, excuse me. *cough*. I will be examining Sakura-sama's body for a little *ne*. It's all right. Because there won't be anything to fear.」

After pulling myself together, I studied her body, wait no, I examined it.

「*n*」

When I gently touched that part with my finger, she unintentionally let out that voice with that kind of feeling.

I continued on and spread out that part, then observed the inside.

Small.... I, can't confirm it like this *ne*.

「Chiffon-san! What are you doing!?」

I think I understand the current situation. Although she tried closing her legs wish a flushed face, she couldn't close it because my body was in the way.

「Since I'm almost done, please hold still okay?」

As I gently called out, I slide my finger in there.

「*fua*」

She's probably enduring it. However, I still felt the cuteness from the voice she leaked out.

I moved around my finger and searched that place.

Ah, this is...

After I finished checking, I separated from her body and smiled.

When she noticed, she hurriedly grabbed the blanket and wrapped herself up.

「Sakura-sama. Congratulations.」

She had a surprised and a 'I don't understand what you're talking about' kind of expression.

「This blood comes from that time of the month you see. From today, Sakura-sama has become an adult woman.」

「Eh...? Then, the Prince and I, didn't do it...?」

「Right, I checked it just now but there wasn't any lacerations in the surroundings, since I also confirmed your mark of chastity, I believe it's certainly that time of the month.」

After explaining, she became visibly relieved and displayed a smile.

Although she's displaying a relieved smile, it's strange how this kind of misunderstand happened.

「In the first place, why did you think it was that kind of thing? And also, how come His Highness was here?」

From my question, her body trembled with a *biku*.

What could have happened?

「Umm, I'm, incredibly weak to alcohol, yesterday, I drank some wine the Prince brought over. And then, I lost consciousness, *ne*. When I woke up, I was naked, the Prince was sleeping besides me, then the blood. That's why, *umm*.」

Although she explained whilst flustered, it should be something like this if I try put it together.

「In other words, His Highness encouraged you to drink alcohol, even though you were weak to it, you drank it and lost consciousness. When you woke up, you were lying naked in bed, and His Highness was sleeping besides you. You saw the blood on the sheets so you thought *that* had happened, is what you mean?」

From my words, she nodded with a *koukoku*.

「His Highness, does he know Sakura-sama is weak to alcohol?」

「He knows.... Since this happened last time as well...」

As expected, isn't this His Highness Prince Sedrim's fault...!?

「That stupid Prince! What is he doing!」

Oops, I got angry again...

「Cough. Then, does Sakura-sama have knowledge about that time of the month?」

「I know the basics.... However, about what I need to do...」

It appears she has knowledge of that time of the month, but it seems she doesn't understand how to handle it.

Normally a close female senior, like a mother or sister, would teach you this but...

Could it be that she currently doesn't have any close female figures like that?

At the very least, it's necessary to teach her the essential information immediately.

「Is that so, generally, it's either a cloth pad that would be pressed against your

body by placing it in your underwear, or inserting a filling. For women who move around a lot, it seems they often use the filling. As for the cloth pad, it could slip out of your underwear and get blood stained on your clothes. Since Sakura-sama is an adventurer, wouldn't the filling be better?」

After she heard the explanation, I saw her expression had, but only a little, a feeling of fear.

「Eeh, isn't it scary to use the filling? If possible, the cloth pad would be better~ hahaha...」

Aah, so it's that.

For inexperienced ladies, there are many that feel fear by the act of inserting a foreign object into their body.

「If you don't move around intensively, the cloth pad would be fine but... As an adventurer, that might be slightly difficult *ne*. There's also your physical condition... Which reminds me, how's your physical condition, Sakura-sama?」

「My stomach slightly hurts. Also my body is a little sluggish, or should I say, it feels heavy.」

「Do you feel anything like feeling sick?」

「As for how I feel...probably, I think it's fine.」

Somehow, it appears her symptoms are relatively minor.

「It appears Sakura-sama is only minorly affected. As for the serious effects, it would hurt so much you wouldn't be able to move, you'll also feel sick enough to throw up.」

From my explanation, could it be my imagination? She has a bitter expression.

「However, since your condition can become more serious because of various reasons, I suggest if you take a rest if you feel your physical condition worsen.」

After hearing there was a possibility of it worsening, she began pondering.

「Well then, because after I explain this to His Highness, I'll need to do some shopping, Sakura-sama, let me see. A skirt would be preferred today. Could you change into your clothes then wait for me? Aah, please apply a suitable clean

cloth in your underwear okay?」

She confirms by nodding, I then peeled off the stained sheets and left the room.

Now then, that stupid Prince, how shall I deal with him?

Coming out of the room, I lightly explained to the stupid Prince who was waiting there.

About the blood which was from that time of the month, and how it was her first time.

About having confirmed her chastity.

About how the cause of this time's uproar, was because His Highness the Prince had her drink alcohol even though he knew she was weak to it.

His Highness the Prince had a plain expression while listening to the first two, but his expression paled when it came to the last matter.

After informing him that I'll be going out to buy some necessary items, His Highness the Prince asked me 'is it okay if I enter to talk to her?'.

I replied saying since she's in the middle of changing right now, be sure to call out to her later. After soaking the sheets in water, I left to go shopping.

After the necessary items were purchased, I returned to her house.

When I opened the bedroom door, there was a flushed faced little girl with her head hung down, and the appearance of His Highness the Prince gently stroking her head.

「Ara? Ara ara? Am I disturbing...? Ufufufu.」

「No! You're not disturbing! Welcome back, Chiffon-san!」

After she hurriedly stood up and spoke, His Highness the Prince disappointingly pulled back his hand.

「Ara? Is that right?」

Could their relationship just be getting started? But that atmosphere just now...

「W-Which reminds me! What did you go out and buy, Chiffon-san?」

Ara? It seems that subject is embarrassing. How cute.

「Ara ara. Well, could His Highness please leave the room for a moment? Since this is a conversation between women.」

Because if the Prince is here, it'll be even more embarrassing *ne*.

「Noow, Sakura-sama. Please put this on *ne*.」

Saying that, I handed over a cloth pad, underwear and a filling to her.

She stared at me with questioning eyes as she received it.

Aah, how cute. Which reminds me, my youngest sister in our house was like this too.

「This slender and folded cloth is a cloth pad, you attach it to your underwear when it's that time of the month. This cylindrical one is a filling. All of these can be bought from the general store or a women's clothing store.」

While explaining and showing each item in turns, as expected, she grimaced when it came to the filling.

Ufufu, if I don't attempt this by all means...!

「Now, Sakura-sama. Quickly try put it on *ne*.」

Just like the times I got my sisters to behave themselves, I embraced her shoulders and drew her closer.

Although she desperately tried to escape, from the experience I've cultivated so far, I won't let go that easily.

Softly extending my hand, I untie her underwear's string.

「Wait, please wait! What are you doing!?」

Although she protested as soon as she realized, this is necessary!

「*nfufu~*. Cute♪ It's alright you know~?」

As soon as the other string was untied, the underwear smoothly slipped off.

「Noow, Sakura-sama? I'll teach you how to put it on okay?」

From my voice, she lifted her head and it came into her view, the filling I was holding.

She stiffened up the moment she saw that.

I rotated around her body and embraced her once again from the back.

「It's not scary you know~? Because it'll be over immediately okay~?」

Flipping up her skirt with one hand, I then held onto the hem of the skirt with the hand I was restraining her with.

Then with the filling, I gently covered her *place*.

「NO, NONONONO..... NOOOOOOO!!!」

As I restrained her while she violently struggled, I slowly pushed in the filling.

After wearing the filling and putting on her underwear, she laid on the bed completely exhausted.

「*u~*, somehow, this feels strange.」

She uncomfortably muttered on the bed.

「*Ufufu*. that feeling will soon disappear you know? *Aah*, please change it at least once a day okay? Because if you leave it in, you can also get sick. Oh right, these are a gift from me. Since there's enough for this time, don't worry about using them okay? Because I've already received the payment♪.」

I told her the necessary things.

Because she lifted up her face and looked this way after hearing me, I continued on with a serious expression.

「Listen, Sakura-sama. If you have any troubles or worries, please consult me any time. His Highness... may be unreliable, so I'll do what I can. Things like women's troubles, *ne*?」

Preserving alone with such a small body, I think it's necessary for her to have partner that she trusts.

Although I don't know whether or not I can become that person, I want to do to as much as possible within my power.

From my words, she slowly looked up.

「Umm..., then, I have one right now but...」

「Yes, what is it?」

As I expected, she also has some troubles alone right! Please ask me anything!

「How do you grow so big?」

Eh? Even if you say that...

From the unexpected question, I hesitate on how best to answer.

「That's.... Are you talking about height?」

「No, there's that too, but.... Like your chest, and like, your butt. Chiffon-san, aren't yours big? How do you get them so big?」

Can I, be considered big? I've thought myself to be average though.

Maa, although it can be considered big compared to her...

Rather, I consider her cuteness to be better though.

「I see. I don't do any special in particular... However, don't you think you're also cute even when you're small, Sakura-sama?」

「But, isn't it better to be big? Everyone in this country is big too. The Prince also likes it big.... After all, I don't have the charm of a woman with me being so small *ne...*」

The little girl says whilst hanging her head down with a flushed face.

Possibly, could she be denying herself?^{6!!}

Although I'm not pleased that it's about the stupid Prince, let me give you a single advice here.

「I don't think that's the case but... If you want it big no matter what, then have you heard it's beneficial if you let a gentleman massage it? Shall we try request His Highness to do it?」

「*Eh?* Why the Prince? No, leaving that aside, that's not the problem, it's

impossible, impossible. Absolutely, impossible!」

With her face completely flushed, she frantically shook her head.

Aah, mou. That sort of appearance is cute as well!

Afterwards, she prepared breakfast, my share was taken care of because of that.⁷

Although for some reason, the stupid Prince sat down on his seat as if it was natural... Helping out with the tableware preparations, I ate a breakfast that I've never tasted up until now, it was wonderful. Has this stupid Prince been fed like this? (*note: the word 'fed' here is used for feeding and taming(?) wild animals*)

After this, I'll have to visit her house now and then on the days I don't have work, but that's probably a story for another time.⁸

author's note

There's a superstition where if you have your chest rubbed, it'll grow bigger.

Well, although the author(I) believe(s) there's absolutely no mistake, there is no scientific evidence.

More or less, the female hormones will be stimulated if you have a person you like massage your chest(doing that kind of deed), as a result, I've heard the chest can also grow bigger.

As the author, I somewhat prefer this kind of opinion.

Ah, it doesn't even matter ne.

~

胸を揉めば大きくなる、というのは迷信です。

まあ、作者は完全に間違いではない、と思っていますが、科学的根拠はありません。

一応、好きな人に胸を揉んでもらう(そう言う行為をする)ことで女性ホルモンが活性化され、結果として胸が大きくなることもある、というのは聞いたことがあります。

作者としては、この見解のほうがなんとなく好きです。

あ、どうでもいいですね。

Notes

1. それと言うのも、隣を走っているセドリム第二王子殿下が原因でした。
2. そんな少女が一人で王城に、それも王族の客人として宿泊するなんて、何か特別な事情があったのだろうと思ってお世話をしました。
3. 一步間違えればストーカーじゃないですか！
4. こんな状況を見れば、疑われることは一つです。
5. この言い方だと伝わったようです。
6. これはもしかして、彼女も満更ではないってことでしょうか？
7. その後、彼女が朝食を用意する、というのでご相伴にあずかるようになりました。
8. これ以降、わたしは仕事がない日に、ちよくちよく彼女の家を訪れることになったのは多分、余談です。

Chapter 43 ~ The First Prince

~things~

fu – sound of a sigh/hmph

Chapter 43 – *(highlight)*

Ten days have passed since then.

Just like always, I take commissions which can be completed in one day.

Although there are ranked subjugations and escort commissions too, because those commissions generally take a few days to complete, it's somewhat difficult for me to get involved in.

But I'd like to try take them on eventually.

Almost every day in the evenings, the Prince comes over to my place to eat a meal.

I reluctantly prepared some for him at first, but for some reason, I resigned myself that he would come every day.

A prince walking around so much every day, would that be okay?

Does he actually have that much free time...?

As expected, because the food expenses have taken a hit, I receive 2 coppers for each serving, but.

What I mean by almost every day is, there was one day when the Prince had to attend a ball so he couldn't come on that day, and another day when I returned home late.

He complained the following day for some reason.

As a result, in the situations where there's a chance I'll be late, either I won't know beforehand or I didn't say anything the day before, I'll place a sign at a

noticeable spot in the entryway.

Although I'm not the Prince's personal chef...

In addition, the Prince also intervened with my clothes.

Things like more feminine clothing, or things like don't display my legs. Who do you think you are?

Since he was nagging me too much, for the next few days when I returned, I changed into a dress and trousers.

And today too, the Prince was waiting in front of the entryway.

As I let the Prince inside the house just like always, I heard a voice.

「So this is the source of your disappearance everyday huh.」

When I looked in the direction of the voice, a blond haired man was standing there.

Who could that be? The Prince's acquaintance?

When I looked at the Prince, he looked at the man with a surprised expression.

「Elder brother..., why are you here...?」

Ha? Elder brother? The Prince's brother, then this person is also a prince?

Speaking of that...

Blond hair with blue eyes, a long nose bridge, this person is also a beauty.

You could say he has similar features to the Prince.

Or rather, is this country's royalty staggering by default?

This prince is good, that prince is good...

「*Fu.* Recently, you've always been disappearing when it turns into evening. You also seemed to have eaten dinner outside as well... Since father only laughed even when I asked him, that being the case, I thought I should investigate myself so I came and followed you.」

Aah, it would be strange if he always disappeared at dinnertime ne.

「And, is that person the girl from the rumors? Although I heard from the story, she really is small. Is she really 15 years old? Well, I don't want to criticise other people's tastes but...」

The apparent First Prince(since I don't know his name) approached and scrutinisingly gazed at me.

Somehow, it's an unpleasant feeling *ne*.

Leaving that aside, the rumor? Is there another strange rumor going around? Please give me a break.

Besides, most people would be small according to you, you know.

From what I understand by examining this close, this person is larger than the Prince. Could he be over 2 meters?

Please don't get so close to me. Since my head is getting tired from looking up...

「*fumu*, her appearance isn't bad... But Sedrim, I never realized, you know? That you had this kind of preference... *Aah*, so that's why you didn't get engaged to any of those women.」

About the Prince's preferences just now... What does that mean?

As I was stumped, I looked up towards the Prince.

The Prince placed his hand on my head with a *pon*.

「Well then elder brother, are you already satisfied yet?」

That's right! if your business is finished, please quickly leave.

「*Fu*, my business is yet to be finished you know? Since this is an opportunity, I thought I should come eat at the place you have dinner every night at.」

Ha? Even though I'm making it?

In the first place, do you think you can just decide on your own to come and eat just because you're a prince?

「Elder brother, that's...」

「*Fu*, I, the next king, just wants to eat. This, *a*—, tell me your name.」

What's this? The next king is like this?

Is it alright having this kind of prince?

「.....Before asking for someone's name, it's only courtesy to give out your own name first, is what I've been taught you know?」

From my words, the First Prince had a flabbergasted facial expression.

And then, I felt a slight strength from the hand which was still placed on my head.

「*Hahahahaha*. This girl says interesting things. Okay then, my name is Edwill II Sobule. This country's first prince. Now, tell me your name.」

Uwaa, he seems like the troublesome type.

「It's Sakura Fujino...」

「*Fu*, Sakura huh. Okay, Sakura. Prepare my portion of the meal.」

Is it really alright having this kind of prince?

When I looked up to Prince Sedrim with a 'I have nothing to say' expression, he had a similar expression.

「Sorry.」

Although it was only a single word, I understand the gist of it.

Well, I didn't want to understand but...

No, it's fine if you don't stroke my head. That's enough, please remove your hand.

「Well, show me around.」

Haa, breathing out a sigh, I invited Prince Edwill inside the house.

「Sorry, Sakura. For inconveniencing you.」

Well, deciding on your own to come and eat, isn't that the same as you, Prince?

「*Maa*, I don't mind. But to add another person's portion at this time...」

Saying that, I resumed the dish I was making.

Fortunately, I should say, since the number of people has only increased by one today, it's something within tolerable range.

At best, the portion of the Prince's second helping will be lost.

「Aah, Prince, if you're only just going to stand there, please prepare the tableware.」

As I was cooking, I looked at the Prince from behind and issued some orders.

The Prince didn't utter a complaint and went to arrange the tableware just like I said to.

「Somehow, this is nice. Being like this... Like a married couple.」

BAM

The vegetable I was cutting was split into two.

Who and who is like a married couple?

「What happened? Why's your face red?」

Who's fault do you think it is!?

Even if it's me, I'm still a girl. That kind of, the so-called lovey-dovey newly-wed life, I've also thought about it but...

My partner being the Prince...? No way no way no way! No way... right...?

Ah, my face has gone red again from imagining...

「Don't talk about any unnecessary things, please move your hands instead! Hey! Please take out the forks and spoons.」

In order to deceive him, I issued the Prince some orders.

「Hahaha, could you be embarrassed? A flushed Sakura is also cute you know.」

C-Cute... What are you brazenly saying!?

「If you only speak unnecessary things, there won't be a portion for the Prince okay?」

While facing my back towards the Prince, I spoke the words I thought would be

most effective.

「I'd be troubled if I'm unable to eat the cooking Sakura made with great efforts *na*.」

As expected, this seems to be the most effective way.

「Since I'll properly arrange the tableware, be sure to make a delicious dish okay?」

Since I'm also making this for myself to eat, I'm not going to intentionally make it bad you know?

I'm not particularly making this dish for the Prince okay!?

Huh?

I didn't realize Prince Edwill was peeking from the living room and watching this scene in the kitchen.

By the way, after Prince Edwill returned to the castle and told the story to the other royalty, Prince Sedrim would later feel strange gazes on him, but that'll be a story for another time.

Finished with the dinner preparations, we began our meal with Prince Edwill.

The menu is stewed hamburger steak, mimosa salad, potato potage and naturally leavened bread.



At first, Prince Edwill was bewildered by the dishes he had never seen before, but after Prince Sedrim and I started eating, he resolved himself and placed it in his mouth.

Immediately following, his body trembled and stiffened as if he was mesmerised, but after returning from his stiffness, he started eating with incredible vigor.

He had one serving of stewed hamburger steak and two servings of potage, after asking for seconds, he also had five servings of bread.

Prince Sedrim was disheartened he didn't get a second serving for himself, but I'll be omitting it since it's a trivial matter.

After finishing the meal, I took out some butter cookies and cold herb tea for the two princes, then cleaned up.



While I was cleaning up, I hear the two people's voices from behind me.

「Oi, Sedrim. Are you always eating such delicious things?」

「Let me see, I can't say always, but.」

Well, he only comes to eat without permission.

「Alright, I've decided I'll also eat dinner here from tomorrow.」

「Eh? What are they talking about?」

Please wait! Just the Prince alone is enough you know!?

「Wait, elder brother!」

That's right! Prince, do your best!

Prince Sedrim says 'please come here', drags him to the corner of the room, then says something while whispering in a low voice.

The two people occasionally looked my way, then continued on whispering.

After finishing their secret talk and returning, Prince Edwill started talking with a grin.

「Since that's the case, I'll refrain myself. Sedrim, do your best.」

He slapped Sedrim's back with enough strength to make a *banban* sound.

As Prince Sedrim responded with a frown, he stopped.¹

What could they have talked about...?

I'm also bothered by that expression Prince Edwill had but...

「But, you know. It's unforgivable that only Sedrim alone gets to eat such delicious things. Even if it's just that bread, can't you do something about it?」

Like I've said, Prince Sedrim just decided on his own to come here to eat.

Or rather, earlier when I heard the First Prince speak, didn't he have that annoying formal speech?

Rather, I feel he's a troublesome character...

Although it's a different meaning from annoying, it's still annoying.²!

When I checked with Prince Sedrim, 「the pride of a royalty is high」, is what he said.

In other words, if his pride isn't damaged then he won't be hard to deal with, is what it seems. As expected, he appears to be a troublesome person.

So that means, the way I should deal with this situation is...

「Haa, I can't promise anything but... If it's just once in a while, how about letting Prince Sedrim to bring you along?」

In other words, even if I only give him a gift once, I haven't particularly lied.³

「Fu, that will be fine. I'm looking forward to it.」

Alright, the matter of having two princes intrude me everyday has disappeared.

「Fu, then, I should be heading back. Sedrim, you, haven't had that talk yet right? Quickly finish it then come back. Well then.」

U—n, a free spirit ne. As expected, this prince, is also person of royalty ne.

Prince Edwill grabbed several pieces of bread from the kitchen, then headed back home.

Please don't just take them without permission...

「And, what is this 'talk' about?」

We returned to the living room after seeing off Prince Edwill, we faced each other while drinking iced tea.

「Aah, there's something I want to request of Sakura, but.」

「I'll decline.」

I have a terrible premonition it's a something troublesome.

「Come on, at least decline after hearing the story.」

Somehow, just from hearing that, why do I feel it'll be a troublesome matter?

When the Prince fixedly gazed at me, I stared back at him(with upturned eyes because of the difference in height).

The Prince blushed and averted his eyes.

In this situation, what's there to be shy about...?

「To tell the truth, I want Sakura to attend the next ball.」

Even though I didn't say I wanted to hear it, he still started talking on his own accord!?

「As my partner.」

As expected, it's something troublesome!

「For the next ball, there's a rule where we need to be accompanied by a partner you see. However, since I'm obligated to participate...」

「How do you usually do it? Isn't it fine if you just do it like before?」

It should be fine to do something similar this time as well.

「I usually ask my little sister, Aria, but Aria has been scheduled to go to an inspection. I don't have a partner this time.」

Even if you say that, why does it have to be me?

「Isn't it fine if you just ask out a noble's daughter since you're a prince? Such as one of your fiancée candidates. Wouldn't they accept with pleasure?」

Honestly, I have a feeling of 'I want to see it'.

Although I know it's a place where maliciousness are exchanged behind smiles, it might be worth taking a glimpse of the gorgeous exterior. Though I'd decline going twice *ne*.

「That, wouldn't work *na*. I've told you the reason why I didn't get engaged right? If I take one as a partner to the ball, everybody around me would see. When that happens, it'll become troublesome afterwards.」

Is it my imagination? The Prince has a unpleasant-like expression.

「Then isn't it the same if you go together with me? Rather, I hate being seen with those kinds of eyes you know?」

「Sakura is a commoner right? I believe the chances of that happening is little since you're different from nobles, but it won't make much difference what they think⁴. Please Sakura, I can only rely on you. You understand right?」

After saying that, the Prince lowered his head.

Like I've said, even as a joke, royalty(following omitted). (*note: it's like this in the raw*)

As expected, this sure is a troublesome matter. A bad natured one in addition...

Which was why I didn't want to hear it you know.

「As expected, is it impossible...?」

When I said nothing, the Prince slightly raised his head and peeped at me.

With eyes like an abandoned puppy!

AAAAAAH, there's an illusion of a pair of ears and a tail drooping down!

This is hard to deal with, this fellow with round and cute eyes of a small animal!

「I understand! Since I understand, please raise your head!」

As I shouted after being defeated, the Prince suddenly raised his head, no, let alone his head, he stood up and approached my direction and hugged me.

「Thank you! I had faith Sakura would accept! With this, it's going according to plan!!」

Although the Prince shouted out something, I didn't take heed of it.⁵

As I was being hugged while still sitting down, I was lifted up.

The Prince's height is 184cm, mine is 140cm, rounded up.

My legs were completely lifted off the ground you know?

Since I was shaken and swung around in that situation, I held onto the Prince's neck and frantically clung on in order not to fall.

As one would expect, being a knight, he has a fine body ne...

Nono, this isn't the situation to be thinking of such things!

For an instant, in the corner of my vision, I had a feeling I saw Prince Edwill peeking into the living room from the garden but... It's my imagination, right?

「Well then, when's that ball or whatever?」

After finally being released, I verify the necessary matters.

「It's the day after tomorrow.」

Ha?

「Since the ball is in the evening of the day after tomorrow, a dress will be prepared tomorrow. Come over to the castle at 4-2 koku.」

「Day after tomorrow you say.... No matter how you put it, isn't this too sudden? I, won't be able to do any preparations you know!？」

Right, even temporarily, I'm going as the partner of a prince. I also can't behave badly.⁶

「The preparations will be done on our end. What's necessary should just be the dress' measurements? You don't have to worry, it'll be fine to just stay beside me. It's not necessary to dance either okay.」

Eh? Is it okay if I don't do anything?

Something's strange. This was only the beginning of the discomfort I felt about this matter.

「That's why I'd like you to come over to the castle tomorrow morning. As expected, since if we don't hurry, there won't be enough time for the dress.」

Umm, 4-2 koku should be 9am *ne*. *Maa*, if it's that much...

「Well for now, I understand. Since I've taken this responsibility, I'll do my best.」

「I'll be relying on you.」

A short time later, the Prince returned home.

A fuzziness was left in my chest...⁷

author's note

At first, I planned to have the First Prince have an even tougher personality but...

His personality had turned into this after I wrote it.

第一王子は、最初はもっとお堅い性格の予定だったのですが...。

書いてみるとこんな性格になっていました。

Notes

1. 対するセドリム王子は顔をしかめながら、されるままになっています。
2. うるさいのは違う意味でうるさいんですけど。(?)
3. つまり、一回でもお土産に持たせれば、嘘をついたことにはなりません。
4. 貴族と違ってそう思われる可能性は少ないし、仮に思われたとしてもどうなるものでない。
5. 王子が何か叫んでいますが、わたしはそれどころじゃありません。
6. そう、仮にも王子のパートナーとして行くんです。あまり酷い真似もできません。
7. わたしの胸にもやもやとしたものを残して...。

Chapter 44 ~ Dress

Chapter 44 – Dress

~

~

The next day, after doing my usual morning preparations and the task of my own lunch, as well as two portions for the princes that are most likely going to come to me to eat, and also making several peoples portions worth of sandwiches(I baked some sliced bread last night), I placed them all in a basket and headed towards the castle.

After conveying my business to the gatekeeper, he reported the words and then immediately guided me into a single room.

「Excuse me. I have guided Sakura Fujino-sama here.」

From the voice of the knight who guided, a female voice replied「please enter」from the inside.

Since the soldiers guarding the door moved to one side, could that mean they want me to go inside?

「Please excuse me...」

When I opened the door and entered after shouting that, my vision was suddenly blocked.

「squish」

Eh? What? What's happening right now?

I can only see a light blue colour within my view.

My body is being wrapped up in something soft.

And furthermore, there's a soft sensation above my head.

「Kyaa~! Even though I've heard about it, so smaaall! Cuuute~! Kyaa~!」

More and more tightly, the strength wrapping up my body increased.

「Hey! Please take a look too, mother!」

M o t h e r ?

No, leaving that aside, it's, painful.

Even though I can breath, my head has been pinned down and subtly locked in place.

「Aria, calm down. Hey, doesn't that seem painful? Please separate from her.」

After that voice, my body was finally released.

「*puhaa*」

I took a big breath, and since my visibility has been restored, I took a look around the room and finally understood the situation. No, I don't understand the situation but...

Before me, the one standing with a glittering expression is Aria, from what the woman called her. I estimate her height to be 175cm. Her chest is also big... estimated to be an F cup. So the thing above my head just now was that huh?

At the table on the other side, a woman with the appearance of being in her late twenties was drinking tea. Although I can't see since she's sitting down, her height should most likely exceed 170cm. I estimate her chest to be an E cup. No, maybe an F. It appears this is the person the woman called「mother」.

Is it okay if I pick some off? It's okay, right?

And the person sitting on the opposite side is, the King? Why's he here?

When I turned my eyes away, Prince Edwill and Prince Sedrim were sitting on a sofa opposite me.

There were three maid-sans by the wall.

「Sedrim *nii-sama*! To hide such a cute child, how horrible *wa*! Wouldn't it have been fine if you told me about this?」

n? To call Sedrim as brother, a woman with the name Aria...?

If my memory is correct, this woman is Princess Aria...?

Then, the women that Princess Aria called「mother」is, the Queen!?

Why has the entire royal family gathered here!?

「Sakura is an adventurer. You understand why there wasn't an opportunity to introduce her to you right? And since we can do our introductions now, isn't that fine? Leaving that aside, how about you introduce yourself, Aria?」

Introductions? Why am I being introduced to royalty?

「That's right *ne*. How do you do, I am Aria Isa Sobule *wa*. I am the First Princess.」

After saying that, Princess Aria elegantly smiles. A beauty. Picture perfect.

「How do you do. I am Eris Limsa Sobule. The Queen.」

Rising from her seat, the Queen also elegantly greets me. As expected, a beauty-san.」

Or rather, no matter how you look at it, she doesn't look past 30 right!? Since her body is slender as well, I wouldn't have thought she's already had three children!

「Sakura, introduce yourself.」

Before I knew it, Prince Sedrim had come beside me and gently placed his hand on my shoulder.

Why do you have to place your hand?

While feeling lukewarm gazes on me, for the time being, I'll get my introduction over with.

「Nice to meet you, I'm Sakura Fujino. I'm an adventurer.」

I bow my head with a *pekorī*.

When I raised my head, what was in front of me was a flushed faced Aria.

By the time I thought 'Ah', I was hugged.

「*Kyyaa~*! As expected, cute! Sedrim nii-sama, is it okay if I take this child!?」

「Stop it, Aria. Let her go.」

gui, I felt a sensation of being pulled from behind.

As soon as I was pulled away from Princess Aria, this time (?) had grabbed my

shoulders from behind. (*note: (?) in raws*)

「*Mou, Sedrim nii-sama...*」

As I was bewildered and unable to keep up with the situation, a few words were said from the King to change the situation.

「It seems the greetings are completed. For now, how about we sit down and explain the situation? Sakura has a look of not understanding anything you know.」

I completely, don't understand.

Dropping my rucksack packed with lunch in the corner of the room, I was led to the sofa by the Prince to sit down.

I should sit down on the sofa but...

hyoi, before I knew it, I was lifted up and was on Princess Aria's lap for some reason.

And then, in order to cut off my escape, her hands held onto my stomach.

Soft lumps were then rested on both my shoulders.

It's soft but... it's, heavy.

If I move my head, it gives off a *funiyufuniyu* sensation.

.....I'm not envious or anything, okay...?

「*Ara? My shoulders have become very light wa.*」

Hearing those words overhead, wouldn't you think it's inevitable if it sprouts my urge to kill?¹

Even I'd like to say I have stiff shoulders!

I just want to say 'it's so big, it's a nuisance' you know!

The feelings of a person who doesn't have it, a person who has it won't understand!!

Outside of my mind where I was sulking, Prince Sedrim started explaining.

「Although I've said it yesterday, I planned to prepare a dress for Sakura after this. Well, since I cannot be present, mother and Aria will be together with her so

it'll be fine even if I don't worry about it. Since there isn't much time, I believe it'll be difficult but...」

Even if you say that, I really don't understand since I don't know how to make a dress.

「It will be fine *wa*. Please leave it to us. We'll show you a wonderful dress *wa*.」

「Now now, the gentlemen will need to get out of the room. Seria, please call the tailors.」

After the Queen told the King and the two princes to leave the room, she instructed a maid-san by the wall.

「Well then. Sakura, do your best.」

What do you mean, do my best?

Whoops, I almost forgot.

「Prince Sedrim, it's about lunch but.」

The foot which was about to leave the room, suddenly stopped.

Could it be a reaction to food?

「Although it's simple, since I've prepared it, if you'd like...」

The Prince stared at me like he was surprised.

Did I say such a surprising thing?

At any rate, I thought they would surely come sponge off me so I prepared it but...

「Ah, since there's a portion for everyone as well, how about we have it together?」

Being looked at with lukewarm eyes again, I called out to the other royalty as well.

「I'll be sure to come and eat.」

Prince Edwill immediately responded.

「*fumu*, Sedrim visits frequently. It might be good have a try and see how it tastes.」

From the few words of the King, it seems it's been decided that we'll have lunch together.

After saying they'll return to this room once it's lunchtime, the group of men left the room.

And from here on, my tribulation had begun.

Immediately afterwards, I learned the meaning of those previous words,「do your best」.

Several women entered and replaced the group of men.

It appears these people are the tailor-sans.

「Now, Sakura-chan? I'll be taking measurements now okay~?」

zokuri, as soon as that spine tingling voice was heard, I was embraced from behind.

「In order to take your measurements, if you don't take off your clothes, we can't proceed *wa♪*.」

Although I violently struggled and tried to slip away after having an unpleasant premonition, my stomach was held onto so I couldn't successfully move my body.

「*ufufu*. If you don't behave, my hands might slip you know?」

With one hand holding onto my stomach, the other hand groped my body while removing my clothes.

「*HYAA*」

That hand entered under my clothes and gently caressed my bare skin.

「I DON'T WANNA, PLEASE STOP.」

I desperately resisted, but in the situation where my movements were sealed, the best I could do was twist my body.

「It's useless you know? In order to accurately measure, unless you remove your clothes...」

「I'll remove them myself! *n, yan!*」

「No need to be reserved, I'll help you *wa.*」

「I'm not, *fua*, being, reserved! Tickles, *hyau.*」

This is somewhat different from what I thought! Absolutely different!

「*ufufufufufu.*」

「NOOOOOOOO!」

10 minutes later, I found my completely exhausted figure being embraced from behind². Naked...

I was told something like it was necessary to prepare the underwear...

As for that, I don't have such nice underwear though.

When I said 'since they can't be seen after all, wouldn't normal underwear be fine?', I got scolded with extreme vigor.

「Listen okay? If a dress is a woman's uniform, then underwear are the armor for the heart. Even if it can't be seen, if you're particular about underwear, a woman will become strong and beautiful!³」

Although I really don't understand, it appears she won't concede.

The dimensions of here and there on my body were measured, a cloth was then wrapped around me.

I have a feeling I've turned into a doll...

As I blankly stood there, my gaze went passed the Queen and Princess Aria, as well as the maid-sans' faces as they clamoured and made *kyaikyai* sounds.

「Pink will absolutely look good *wa!*」

「Noo, I think light green would be good to match Prince Sedrim's eyes.」

「Wouldn't white also be pretty?」

「Wouldn't it be nice to have a bewitching black lace here?」

「「「Queen, how bold *wa!*」」」

Eh? What are they saying?

How should I call this dress, I think an empire dress would be the most accurate.

Although the shoulders are hidden, there's a V shaped opening from my neck to my chest.

A high waist squeezed below the chest, the hem then naturally extends from there.⁴

Although that was only what the design drawing had shown *ne!*

The cleavage can be seen on the design drawing, but I don't have something like a cleavage okay?

I even lost to a drawing, damn it.

Corset? Please pardon me for not depending on one.⁵!

That sort of uncomfortable thing, I really didn't want it so I'm not putting one on.⁶!

Actually, it seems there wasn't a size I could wear but...

The lingerie will be a bustier with a petticoat below. It seems it's to be worn in addition to the dress.

With the cloth wrapped around my body, they began temporarily sewing with a *chikuchiku* sound.

Since it seems the fabric and colour will be decided by the group of women over there, I wasn't consulted in any way.

Even though I'm the one who's going to wear it...

Ah-, the colour is light pink, in Japan, it would be called cherry blossom. The fabric is silk, I think.

Or rather, I only accepted this time's matter yesterday night, right? The things like the fabrics and the tailors, how come so many arrangements were prepared?

The power of royalty?

After the temporary sewings were completed, I changed into my clothes, it was almost time for lunch.

Those hungry princes should be coming anytime now.

I had the maid-sans assist and set up the basket that I bought along onto the table.

The maid-sans finished setting up then prepared some tea.

As soon as the lunch preparations were completed, the group of male royalties appeared.

「Sakura, what did you make today?」

Prince Sedrim joyfully asked.

「It's sandwiches. It's like various side dishes held between bread.」

「It's held between bread? Since there's definitely no soup, wouldn't it be too hard to eat?」

I'm sure they think it's being held between those solid brown bread *ne*.

「For the time being, please try eating.」

I opened the basket's cover and encouraged them.

「White... This, is bread?」

「What on earth is this? It's amazingly soft!」

「If it's like this, it seems it's edible without soup *wa*.」

From their first time seeing sliced bread, they were surprised.

「Sakura, doesn't this seem to be different from the usual bread?」

Even Prince Sedrim, that was aware of bread other than brown bread, was his first time seeing sliced bread.

「This is called sliced bread, they're delicious whether eaten as they are or toasted. It's also delicious when eaten with butter or jam. I baked them since I

planned to make sandwiches for today.]

After I gave an explanation while eating one to show off, the royalties respectively placed one into their mouths.

「This is... soft and fluffy, but springy... The taste of the things inside are also transmitted. As for the things inside, cheese and, is this lettuce? However, this sauce is... Something like this, it's my first time eating it!】

「Right, I wonder if these are bacon and eggs in mine? In addition, the sauce matches very well, it's really delicious *wa!*】

「I wonder, are these eggs in mine? It's a boiled egg which has been smashed into paste right? But that compacted flavour, although it's slightly tingly, it's delicious *wa.*⁷】

「I have roast chicken and vegetables in mine. The flavour is compacted into the chicken, it seems I'll be able to as many as I'd like if it's like this.】

「Mine is... is this what I've eaten previously, that thing called potato salad? *Mm*, is the flavour slightly stronger? As usual, the dishes Sakura make are always good.】

In the blink of an eye, the sandwiches I brought along had disappeared.

「Well, that was delicious. I understand why Sedrim visits every day.】

「Truly. If those two got together, they'd be able to eat delicious things every meal right? How enviable *wa.*】

「Sedrim nii-sama, how unfair *wa!* Being able to eat such delicious things all by yourself! That's right, we should just have Sakura-chan become our royal family's exclusive chef *wa!* If we do that, we'll also be able to eat Sakura-chan's cooking every meal *wa!*】

Huh, the way this is turning out, again...⁸

「Aria, don't ask something unreasonable. Sakura is an adventurer. She only made it and brought it over today as courtesy.】

「*Mou*, Sedrim nii-sama is unfair *wa!* Monopolizing Sakura-chan for yourself!】

For the time being, could the crisis... be over?

「And, how did it go with the dress? It must've been difficult right?」

He grumbled the last part whilst looking in the direction of Princess Aria.

「That's right..., I'm worn out...」

I hung my head down while also looking at Princess Aria.

「.....You did well.」

So words of appreciation were such a warm thing *ne...*⁹

「So I guess that's it for today. You should get ready and come over tomorrow in the afternoon. The finishing touches to the dress, then preparations for the ball afterwards. I know it's tough but, I'll be relying on you. And because I expect it to end late tomorrow, you should stay at the castle.」

It seems with that, it's over for today.

Since if I'm here for any longer, I'll be caught by Princess Aria. I should quickly run away.

See, she's looking in my direction with her hands ready to spring...¹⁰

lady school with hippo-sensei

empire dress ~ a type of dress with a high waist appearance



corset ~ a super bra(lol) for the torso that slims the waist and pushes up the boobs ([click for picture](#))

bustier ~ a baby corset

petticoat ~ an undergarment worn under the skirt/dress to give it that characteristic bell shape (*thanks canaria23*)

Notes

1. 頭上から聞こえるその言葉に、殺意が芽生えたのは仕方のないことだと思いませんか？
2. 10分後、ぐつたりして後ろから抱きかかえられるように立つ、わたしの姿がありました。
3. 見えなくても下着にこだわってこそ、女は強く、美しくなれるのです！
4. 胸の下で絞られたハイウエストで、そこから裾までが自然に広がっています。
5. コルセット？ 繩りについて勘弁してもらいました。 (?)
6. あんな窮屈そうなもの、とてもじゃありませんが着けたくなんてありません。 (?)
7. でもしっかりと味があって、ちょっとピリっとしているけれど美味しいわ

8. あれ、また雲行きが...。

9. 労いの言葉って、こんなに温かいものだったんですね...。

10. ほら、こちらを見て手をわきわきさせてますし...。

Chapter 45 ~ At the Ball

Chapter 45 – At the Ball

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The following day, after eating breakfast, I once again headed towards the castle.

Since I'll be staying over today, a guest room seems to have been prepared for me.

I was led to the guest room I had stayed in previously by the Queen and some maid-sans, Chiffon-san was here today as well. I was then surrounded by tailor-sans as they did the finishing touches to the dress.

After completing the finishing touches in around half a koku, the tailor-sans went to take a break.

When our tea party, which was our so-called break, had finished, the ball preparations, named the time of nightmares, had begun.

After the Queen + maid-sans left the room, some maid-sans that I didn't recognise entered as a replacement.

Chiffon-san seized my shoulders, then said these words,

「Now, Sakura-sama? It's time to take a bath okay?」

「Eh? Bath?」

「That's right. Now, I'll clean you up until every nook and cranny is clean *ne*.」

「No, I'll, enter alone!」

Not good, Chiffon-san's aura has turned dangerous!

「That's no good you know? Because, this is our job.」

hiiiiii!

Chiffon-san quickly caught me as I was about escape, then smiled with grin.

「ufufufufu. Now, let's take off these clothes *ne~*」

I don't wanna, that smile is scary.

Somebody, save me!!

Of course, there was nobody there to save me, my naked body was hauled and thrown into the bath, my body was then washed... Right, just as she claimed, every nook and cranny...

With their glossy expressions, Chiffon-san and the new maid-sans dried my hair.

Compared to me that has lost various things, we're in a completely different state.¹

Somehow, I feel like my physical and mental strength has been drained before I've even reached the ball...

「Sakura-sama's hair is long and incredibly beautiful *ne.*」

This hair that I've inherited from my mother is my secret pride. I get happy whenever it's praised.

「*fufu*, thank you very much. But, I think it's slightly too long *ne*. When it's this long, I feel it can become a hindrance.」

As one would expect, when it's almost down to my knees, I have to pay attention when I sit down.

When I became an adventurer, I thought about it several times to have it cut...

But, when I thought of it as cutting of the olden days, I would imagine my mother's incredibly sad eyes.²

Supposedly, if I return to Japan with it short, she would certainly cry.

When I think of that, it's better not to cut it *ne*.

As I gave into the sensation of having my hair slowly combed, that dangerous presence came from Chiffon-san once again.

「Now, Sakura-sama. We will now do our best to beautifully polish you up *wa.*」

When I looked at Chiffon-san through a mirror, I had a feeling I saw flames in her eyes.

The bathrobe I was wearing was stripped off, underwear was put on (well, I thought I could at least put the underwear on myself but... Having someone else put on my underwear for me, really is an incredibly embarrassing thing *ne...*), the dress was put on me, my hair was done up, and makeup was applied. After some accessories were put on as finishing touches, the preparations were completed.

When I saw my completed self in the mirror, I didn't know who it was.

No, that wasn't a joke.

After all, I've never worn makeup up until now.

I've used things like face lotions and moisturisers after being told by my mother but...

「Sakura-sama, you look incredibly cute you know. His Highness Prince Sedrim will surely be satisfied as well.」

U~n, certainly, I suppose it's cute if you look at it objectively. Even though I'm talking about myself.

But as expected, my charm of a woman is...

Excessively modest chest and thin hips.

When I became aware of it, I couldn't find myself attractive no matter what.³

I give Chiffon-san a fleeting glance.

A tall, well proportioned figure of about 170cm.

Her figure is being hidden by the maid uniform, but I can tell, I estimate those are E cup breasts.

A tightly knit and high positioned waist.⁴

I can clearly see it when she bends down, that type of butt that can easily deliver a child.

Something like that, isn't that what you'd call an attractive lady?

When I compare it to my own body, I unintentionally let out a sigh.

I win when it comes to the waist...

The Prince surely likes women similar to Chiffon-san.

「It's about time *ne*. His Highness the Prince should be in the waiting room as arranged, don't you think?」

As I nodded, Chiffon-san guided me towards the waiting room the Prince was waiting in.

「It's this way.」

Over there was the only waiting room close to the hall.

When I softly took a deep breath and knocked on the door, a single word, 「enter」, was said from within.

As I opened the door and entered, there was a sofa and table, and on that sofa was the Prince's figure.

「Prince.」

When I called out, the Prince lifted his face... and froze.

That expression, his eyes are wide open as if he's surprised, his mouth is opened as well.

I tried waiting for a moment, but since it didn't look like he was going to get moving anytime soon, I called out once again.

「Prince?」

It's about time, please get rid of that stupid face.⁵

「A, aah. Is it..... Sakura?」

「Who else are you looking at?」

I unintentionally let out a forceful tone.

Seriously, who's fault do you think it is that I ended up with this appearance.

「That's, right. Sorry. I was just slightly surprised.」

Has my change surprised you to that extent?

Well, even though when I looked in the mirror, I thought 'who?'.

「Since there's still some time left, how about some tea?」

Chiffon-san, who entered the room, had already begun preparing tea when she asked.

「Yes please.」

The Prince sat upright as he accepted the tea Chiffon-san had made.

During that time, the Prince didn't say a single word.

No, I didn't have any expectations or anything...

Nonetheless, I can feel his gaze repeatedly glance in my direction, honestly, it feels irritating.

「What is it?」

Even when I ask that,

「No, it's nothing.」

would be his only answer...

Although Chiffon-san is grinning, I wonder what it could be *ne?*

Before long, I noticed the outside of the room had become noisy.

This room connects to a passage which leads to the hall.

It seems the people attending the ball are gathering to the hall.

Us as well, Chiffon-san saw us off and we exited the room.

When the Prince stood beside me, he suddenly held out his hand.

I placed my hand on top of his hand, my first time, and probably the last, then headed to the ball.

The first thing I saw when I entered the hall was, people.

The spacious hall which could hold thousands of people, a great number of people.

On the high ceiling, pictures were drawn on it.

And hanging from the ceiling was a glittering chandelier, sparkling.

The lights that are illuminating the inside of the room, could they be magic tools?

There was a large open space at the centre, tables with food were by the walls.

And on top of the several steps of stairs, were two elegant chairs.

When we entered the hall, the people inside the venue looked over at our direction.

From those gazes, my body shivered with a twitch.

「Act as usual. There's no need to worry if you don't leave my side.」

After the Prince patted my head with his available hand with a *ponpon*, we stepped into the hall.

For the time being, I'll have to make sure not to embarrass the Prince.

Immediately after we went inside, a lone man started a conversation.

Obviously a noble from appearance, a stout, chubby old man probably in his fifties.

「Well isn't it Your Highness Prince Sedrim. Your Highness the Prince seems to be in good humour. Incidentally, Your Highness the Prince has lately been enthusiastically going to a commoner's place and... Is this her, the girl from the rumour? She's cute. Your Highness the Prince sure has good tastes *na*.」

Uwa, he immediately spitted out sarcasm.⁶

Or rather, what does he mean by rumour? What's the Prince doing!?

「It's been awhile since we've seen each other. The Duke as well, you seem to be in good health above all. Since you've recently began a new business. Sakura, this is Duke Hertsmere」

The Prince introduces me to the sarcastic old man.

「How do you do, Duke Hertsmere-sama. I am called Sakura Fujino.」

Saying that, I did a lady's curtsy.

I roughly had these sorts of etiquettes in my previous life's knowledge but... So how come even though I was a man, I knew about a lady's etiquette? That's not important.

Well, it's good that it's helpful right now but...

The Prince and the Duke were surprised at my perfect lady's etiquette.

Because what they thought to be an ordinary commoner had perfect etiquette for a lady, I think it's inevitable.

「Excuse me, may we excuse ourselves? Since this her first time at a ball, I want her to slowly ease in until she becomes accustomed to it.」

「A, aah, that's right.」

「Well then, please excuse us.」

The Prince, who recovered earlier, cajoled the sarcastic old man while he was still confused.

「Sorry *na*, to be suddenly caught by that duke... That duke's daughter is one of my fiancée candidates you see. Most likely, he's inspecting Sakura since you suddenly appeared out of nowhere.⁷」

In other words, it's the Prince's fault he said those sarcastic words *ne*.

Well, I had thought things to that extent would happen anyways.

「Good evening, Your Highness Sedrim. You sure have a cute partner accompanying you tonight.」

The next person who called out, although it's been covered by clothing, I can tell, had a moderately toned body and distinct snow white hair, probably an old man in his forties.

「Well if it isn't Count Grantz. It's been a long time. Thank you for taking care of me at that time.」

This uncle also interacts with the Prince straightforwardly.

「No no, I just did what I was able to you know. Leaving that aside Your Highness. Could this *ojou-san* be from the rumor... I wonder? If it's alright with you, would you introduce her to me?」

What should I say? There was a part I didn't follow but...?⁸

「Sakura, this is Count Grantz. I consult him often on matters regarding the Chivalric Order.」

「How do you do, Count Grantz-sama. I am Sakura Fujino.」

Saying that, I did a lady's curtsy.

「How courteous. She even has proper etiquette. Well well, it seems I'll be able to see something good before long *na*.」

「Count Grantz.」

The Prince called out to the Count with a sharp tone.

And then while the two people had eye contact, they glanced at me.⁹ What could it be...?

When I tilted my head to the side, I heard the announcement of the King and Queen's entrance.

Together with an entrance music, the King and Queen entered.

The participants within the hall faced that direction and did a retainer's bow.

For the time being, I also bowed my head as I was prompted by the Prince.

Even though I'm not a retainer *ne*.

「Everyone, you have gathered here well.」

After that voice, I realized my surroundings had raised their heads.

「Please enjoy yourselves this evening.」

At the same time those words finished, light music began to drifting out.

It seems several men and women are dancing at the centre.

「Sakura, I'll need to go do some greetings for a bit. You might feel lonely but, please wait here for a moment.」

When it comes to a prince, I'm sure they have many various obligatory ties.

I approached a wall, then saw off the Prince as he headed towards a single group.

Notes

1. 対するわたしは色々な物を失い、されるがままです。
2. でも、昔から切りたいって言うと、母親にすごく悲しそうな目で見られるんですよ。
3. それを意識すると、どうしても自分が魅力的だとは思えません。
4. 高い位置できゅつと締まったウエスト。
5. そろそろ、その間の抜けた顔を戻してください。
6. うわ、早速丸わかりの嫌みがきましたよ。
7. 恐らくは、いきなり現れたサクラの様子見と、牽制だろう」
8. 何を言ったのでしょうか？聞き取れない部分がありましたが…？
9. そして二人でアイコンタクトをしながら、チラチラとわたしを見ます。

Chapter 46 ~ Fiancée Candidate

~things~

hetare ~ incompetent, lazy, worthless, good for nothing, loser.

Chapter 46 – *(highlight)*

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Being alone, I take a look at the hall once again.

There are many clusters of people here and there.

Over there are the young women, on the other side are the slightly aged women, over here are the men you could call old aged, each having a pleasant chat.

Sometimes, I feel glances in my direction, but I'm sure they're just curious.

Ah, the Prince is with that group of young men.

Several men are pointing in my direction, then slapping the Prince's back. Doesn't that seem quite painful?

It appears many people are shifting around to greet the King and Queen.

「Umm, ojou-san?」

When I turned towards the voice I heard close by, a young, most likely still halfway through his teens, boy, that might as well be called a young man, was standing there with a flushed face.

「If it's alright with you, would you dance one song with me?」

Ha? What could this person be talking about?

No, I know the gentleman wants to request to dance with the lady in this situation...

However, please think about it.

That young man is a human of this world with a tall stature. I believe he's surely taller than average. Because from what it feels like from observing, my neck would be even more tired than with Prince Sedrim¹.

No matter how I think about it, we physically don't match. It's impossible.

「I'm sorry, I cannot dance, so...」

No, I can dance you know? Since I've had ballroom dancing lessons in Japan.

But I can't dance with that physique difference.²!

「Well then, at least your name...」

Is this a pick-up?

Rather, what do you plan to do once you have my name?

Hey, don't those *onee-samas* over there look more tasty?

As for me, I've never been picked up before.

But I've been confessed to you know? In primary school though...

In other words, I have no experience in these sorts of things.

As I was thinking of a way to reject him, help came from a place I least expected.

「Fu, don't you hate that. You'll be hated by women if you ask like that you know?」³

「Y-Your Highness Crown Prince Edwill!」

The troublesome prince had appeared.

「Besides, this child is the child Sedrim brought along you know? Wouldn't it be wise if you run away before he notices?」

When that young playboy heard those words, he alternately looked at Prince Edwill and me, left the words「p-please excuse me.」and went away.

「I was in a bit of a predicament. Thank you very much for helping me.」

I thank Prince Edwill for the time being.

「Fu, don't worry about alright. If you really want to, then please make me a meal as gratitude.」

Did you turn up because you were lured by food...? (*note: the word food here means bait or food for animals*)

Well, since it's a fact I was saved... Next time I make something, I wonder if it's alright to entrust some to the Prince?

「However, your impression has completely changed *na*. At first, I didn't realize who you were you know? And, where's Sedrim? What is he doing leaving this princess by herself.」

「Prince Sedrim had to do some greetings, so he's by that group over there at the moment.」

「What is that guy doing...」

Prince Edwill irritably looks in the Prince's direction.

「Shall I stay here until Prince Sedrim returns?」

*Eh? What kind of rare sight is this?*⁴

For that troublesome 'ore-sama' prince to take others into consideration!

「N-No, it's alright you know. I'm sure Prince Edwill is occupied as well. Besides, other than being whimsically called out, there's isn't anything else.」

I'm grateful for the offer but, the other party is a prince. I'm sure he's still left with round of greetings to do.

「Whimsically, huh. I'll be good if that's the case but... Well then, I'll be going but, be careful okay?」

What would I need to be careful about...?

Bidding farewell to Prince Edwill, I checked on Prince Sedrim's location, but it seems he wasn't by the previous group. When I tried searching, he was surrounded by a group of elderly men this time. *Ah, that count-san from a short while ago was there as well.*

In the same way as the previous group, it seems he's is being slapped on the

back with a *bashibashi* sound.

This seems, it'll take some time as well *ne*.

Since I'm getting hungry, shall I get something to eat?

As I walked to the table while thinking that, this time, a woman's voice called out to me to stop.

「Wait, you over there.」

Although I heard someone's voice, since I don't have any acquaintances here, I wouldn't know why I would be called to stop.

Leaving that aside, it's meal time.

「Wait a moment! It's you *wa*! Right, small like a child!」

Mu, I have a feeling I was challenged.

I slowly turn my body towards the voice's location.

A red haired woman was there. Five other women was behind that woman.

It seems I was stopped by that red haired woman.

「Do you have any business with me?」

As I looked up at the red haired woman, she approached.

Please don't get too close. My neck will get tired.

「Business? Right, it's business *wa*. You're the person from the recent rumors right?」

Like I've said, even though everyone's saying 'rumor', what is it?

The red haired woman scrutinisingly stares at me.

「*Hmph*, since I've heard you came here with His Highness Prince Sedrim, I was imagining what sort of woman it was... Although your face doesn't seem to be bad, you have a shabby body. You're not even a child.⁵」

Saying that, the red haired woman taps the folding fan she's carrying on her mouth and laughs.

And as if they're matching, the women behind her laughs as well.

Are they, lackeys?

「Let me teach you something good *wa*. I am Elina Isa Hertsmere. One of the duke's household *wa*. And, I am also His Highness Prince Sedrim's fiancée candidate. A shabby looking girl like you, how could you even a match *wa*?」

Hertsmere, it's the same name as that chubby old man from the beginning *ne*. So that's the daughter?

And also, one of the Prince's fiancée candidates.

When I look at it, the red hair suits her strong-willed face.

And that dress' design highlights her bodyline.

I can easily see with a single glance with that dress. F..... no, could it be a G?

And that unbelievably narrow waist. Even though it's probably been fastened by a corset...

And that big butt.

This is... the type of body the Prince likes *ne*.

Is it okay if I pluck some off? Like the chest or the chest.

Well then, this quarrel I'm in right now... is the Prince's fault right?

It appears this Elina woman feels kindly towards the Prince.

And so, she called out to me who appeared as his partner out of nowhere today.

「If you understand your social position, then back off.」⁶

Click, it released.

What do you mean by back off? In the first place, wasn't it the Prince who came over to eat without permission? Today's matter as well, even though I only came because it couldn't be helped since the Prince earnestly requested...!

「I don't clearly understand the meaning of your words. I have no intention of doing anything with the Prince, the Prince simply decided on his own to come to my house. 'Don't get close', if you want to talk about that, then please tell that to the Prince first.」⁷

Well, because if you don't do that, I'm sure he'll continue to come to my place.

「Wha! This, don't get carried away because I took a modest approach! The likes of you lowly commoners, I can do whatever I want to you if I feel like it!」⁸

When did you take a modest approach?

I only have memories of your condescending attitude though...

At the same time as those words, the female lackeys spread out and surrounded me.

With that, I completely hidden from the outside.

「Ara, I wonder what you're doing? I'd like you to inform me by all means wa.」

Audible from the other side of the encirclement was a voice I recognized.

But shouldn't she not be here...?

「Nee, would you kindly inform me?」

「Your Highness Princess Aria...」

Her true identity was spilled out from one of the female lackeys.

Why is Princess Aria here? Didn't she need to go to an inspection...?

The reason why I'm here today should've been to substitute for Princess Aria.

If so, why would Princess Aria be here?

「Good grief, how shameful to gang up wa. The matter is Sedrim nii-sama had selected her. And our entire family has accepted it wa. Your complaints are being misdirected wa.」

「H-However, I am! His Highness' fiancée candidate...!」

「What's this about me?」

「「Your Highness Prince Sedrim!」」」「Sedrim nii-sama!」

「What's happening? What is this about? Eriina-jou, could I receive an explanation?」

Excuse me, I have no idea what's happening at all.

After all, I can only hear voices.

For now, what I understand is Princess Aria, who shouldn't be here, is here, and when she was arguing with that Elina woman, the Prince came, is what seems to have happened.

「I-I, couldn't allow an unknown commoner to get close to Your Highness! I was thinking of Your Highness' sake...!」

「For my sake? That's for myself to decide. Not you.」

「*Onii-sama*, she, was going to use her family's power to do something you know.」

Uwa, Princess Aria, do you have to say that right now?

「Is that true? To use the power for the people for personal interest... the Duke's household sure has fallen. Leave. I'll pretend I didn't hear this conversation.」

From those words, Elina-*jou* + the female lackeys left with a *patapata* noise.

So the Prince who I'd thought was a *hetare*, knew how to perform when it's time to perform *ne*.⁹

「Sakura, I'm sorry. For something like this to happen...」

The Prince approached and fell on his knees, then placed his hand against my cheek.

Wait, what is this? *Uwa*, close!

「I-It's alright! Since Princess Aria had came to help! Ah, leaving that aside! Why is Princess Aria here? Shouldn't she have went to an inspection? You said before, 'since Princess Aria won't be here' right!?」

Right, if Princess Aria is here, then I don't have a reason to be here.

The hand which was brushing my cheek came to a halt.

「Ah, umm... Ahahaha... *onii-sama*, I'll leave the remainder to you *wa*.」

「Wai-, oi, Aria!」

As Princess Aria quickly left with her fluttering dress, the Prince's figure was left behind.

「The reason, you'll be able to tell me it right?」

I intentionally question him with a deep tone.

「C-Calm down, that's right, something to drink! I'll go fetch something!」

I won't let you escape either you know?

「If it's drinks, isn't there's some even if you don't go fetch it?」

I called the waiter who happened to pass by with good timing, and picked up a glass.

「Ah, Sakura, that's...!」

I drank the contents of the glass in one go, then returned the empty glass to the waiter.

I then turn my face towards the Prince.

「Now, Prince. Your, explanation...?」

Before I knew it, the things before my eyes suddenly shook, and my consciousness broke off just like that.

kyuu~.

~

Notes

1. 見た感じ、セドリム王子よりも首が疲れますから。
2. でも物理的に踊れません。
3. 「ふつ、嫌がってるじゃないか。そのような聞き方では女性に嫌われるぞ？」
4. え？ どういう風の吹きまわしですか？
5. 子供じゃありませんの」
6. 「身の程がわかったなら身を引きなさいな」
7. 近づくな、と言うのなら、まず王子に言ってください」
8. 貴女のような平民風情、その気になればなんとでもできますのよ！」
9. ヘタレだと思っていた王子もやる時はやるんですね。

Chapter 47 ~ Excuse

~things to know~

hetare (ヘタレ) ~ incompetent, lazy, worthless, good for nothing, loser.
(replacing good-for-nothing from the previous chapters) **lower strata** ~ lower class (in society)

Chapter 47 – Excuse

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n..., my head, hurts...

I think it's, morning.

I think that, because I can feel the light though my eyes even though it's closed.

Although it's morning, I don't feel that usual refreshing feeling through my head.

I feel my body is sluggish as well.

I don't want to get up yet...

The reason why I think that, could it be because of the warmth within my arms?

The warmth, is trying to escape from within my arms.

「Noo, you mustn't...」

My voice unconsciously leaked out as I clung onto the warmth.

Was it because my feelings of not wanting to let go was conveyed? The warmth stopped any further movements.

Being satisfied, I once again part with my consciousness.

gacha

「Good morning, Sakura-sama. It's, morning...?」

The moment I was about to let go of my consciousness, I heard a woman's voice.

「*Ara ara ara?* Well well well!」

Sleepy...

「No, this is! It's not what you think!」

Next was a male's voice.

Again, the warmth between my arms tried to escape.

「*Ah, nooo...*」

When I tightly clung onto it so it wouldn't escape, its movements stopped once again.

「*Ara ara, oh Sakura-sama.* So cute being half asleep. It must also be difficult for Your Highness *wa ne.*」

「If you think that, then please do something...」

nu... it's, noisy...

「*ufufu,* it wouldn't be good if I don't inform the Queen and Her Highness the Princess about this *wa.*」

「W-Wait! Don't make this any more complicated!」

What...? So noisy in the morning...

「*n..., fwuaa~...*」

I stretched my body as I restlessly got up while rubbing my eyes.

「That's no good, Sakura-sama!」

Something coiled around my body.

「*mmm....good—, moorning.*」

My eyes are still bleary.

「Well, Sakura-sama? I will be changing your clothes *ne~.* Ah, Your Highness,

please leave ne.]

Who...? Highness...?

As soon as I heard that voice, my body was shifted around.

Soon after I relaxed my mind, I seemed to have fallen asleep.

When I finally woke up, it was when my face was being washed as I let out my voice.¹

「hya, cold.」

What? What is it now?

When I looked around restlessly from being surprised, I saw Chiffon-san giggling and smiling.

What happened just now??

Chiffon-san holds out a towel towards me, who couldn't grasp the situation.

For the time being, I wiped my face with the towel that was handed over.

「A half asleep Sakura-sama, was also very cute you know. I was able to see a valuable thing.」

When refreshed myself by drinking some water, my head was finally cleared.

The light headache I was feeling had also settled before I realized.

When I looked at Chiffon-san while floating a ? mark above my head, the door was opened and the Prince entered.

「Oh? Prince, good morning. Why is your appearance like that?」

The Prince's appearance, in underclothes shall I say? He's wearing something like a T-shirt, it's in a terribly rough shape. Because his pants are neatly worn on, I have all the more feeling of something being wrong.

「Even though you were the one who stripped me. Don't you remember?」

I did? When? What does he mean by 'don't remember'?

「Sakura, yesterday, you collapsed after drinking alcohol at the ball.」

Yesterday..... ball..... alcohol...?

Ah...

「That's right! Prince, do you have an explanation? Such as the matter of Princess Aria!」

I intended to hear about Princess Aria's matter yesterday, so... So...?

「First of all, put on some clothes.」

The Prince gave me the coat that was on a chair, I then wore it.

「So? Don't you have various things you want to tell me?」

The Prince and I were sat on either side of the table.

Chiffon-san was standing beside the table while smiling.

「Firstly, why did Princess Aria turn up yesterday at the ball, please explain.」

The Prince took a large breath, with an expression of a prisoner before their death sentence, he began talking.

「.....I'm sorry. That was, an order from my mother and Aria you see...」

Ha? Why would the Queen and Princess Aria do such a thing...?

「Recently, I've always gone to Sakura's place right? When my mother and the others knew about it, they started saying they wanted to meet Sakura. I refused every time but... With the matter of me not having a fiancée, I was told to bring you along to yesterday's ball as my partner. Of course, I declined it but... For some reason my father was also interested, I was eventually told to choose either selecting a fiancée, or bringing Sakura along... The reason for requesting Sakura was also thought up by my mother.」

By meeting me, what did they intend to do?

No, leaving that aside.

To begin with, should the Prince not have come over every day for a meal?

If that didn't happen, the Queen and the others shouldn't have thought up something like this.

「I understand the reason. However, in the first place, if the Prince didn't come

over to have a meal every day, this wouldn't have happened right? Could you stop from now on?」

Being dragged into such a troublesome matter, please let this be the last time.

「Eh? No, I would be a problem! Then my reason for meeting Sakura will...」

「Ha? What would be a problem? Please say it again since I couldn't hear it well.」

The Prince starts talking in a fluster with his face turned red.

「No, therefore, you see. That..., Sakura's dishes are, you see, I thought, I'd be lonely if I couldn't eat it anymore. Since Sakura's dishes are delicious you see, *un*.」

It doesn't feel bad being praised but...

Though I have a feeling Chiffon-san softly muttered「*hetare...*」, I'm sure it's my imagination.

「Even so, I'll be bothered by incidents like this time's.」

I'd like to be pardoned from being dragged into troublesome matters.

「No, I'll be careful so incidents like this time won't occur. A—, my mother and Aria... if you meet them once in a while, they won't behave recklessly, I think...」

The Prince unconfidently explains.

「Haa~. I understand, it's fine already. About the Queen and Princess Aria, I'm sure they can't be stopped even if the Prince talks to them...」

Giving up here, as expected, I'm too soft after all.

Well, I do think it's a fact that the Queen and Princess Aria can't be stopped by the Prince.

The head of this royal family, is probably the Queen. And the King is the runner up, then Princess Aria and Prince Edwill by a small margin. Prince Sedrim appears to be the lower strata².

「And so, what happened with me yesterday? After the time of me asking the Prince for this story just now, I have no memory so.」

「That's..., because Sakura mistook alcohol for juice and drank it. It was also quite a strong one too *na*. You immediately collapsed after that, and I carried you to this room. As usual, I was dragged onto the bed and clung onto by Sakura, but for some reason you immediately stripped off my clothes. It was just as usual after that.」

Umm..., I certainly remember taking a glass from a nearby waiter...

Oh, so that was alcohol...

Because of that, the Prince carried me? To this room...?

「*ufufufu*, His Highness carried Sakura-sama in his arms you know? From the hall to this room.」

UWAAAAAAA! I shouldn't have asked!

Isn't there quite a distanced from the hall to this room!

Furthermore, the very day of the ball, from the venue...!

What a shame play!!

Moreover, stripping the Prince... what was I doing, me!

Furthermore, 'just as usual after that' means... you mean I clung onto him naked!?

I shouldn't have found out!!!

「Sakura-sama clinging onto His Highness while half asleep, it was cute *wa~*. Even when His Highness tried to move his hand, you clung on tighter... *Aah*, I wanted to show the Queen and the others...」

As I was blushing in agony, Chiffon-san further dropped a powerful bomb on me.

「Cling...」

I shouldn't have asked! I shouldn't have known!

「*Uh*, I've troubled you...」

I somehow squeeze out some words of apology.

「Well..... it's, fine.」

The Prince looks away with a flushed face as well.

Chiffon-san is..... she also has a flushed face but..... she's wriggling around in anguish.³

I'll pretend I didn't see that...

The delicate atmosphere continued on until we were called for breakfast...

How I imagine Chiffon wriggling



Notes

1. ようやく目が覚めたのは、声のままに顔を洗った時でした。
2. セドリム王子は再下層だと思われます。
3. シフォンさんは.....顔が赤いのは一緒ですが.....くねくねと悶えています。

Chapter 48 ~ Shopping

~things to know~

sake ~ Japanese rice wine

miso ~ a traditional Japanese seasoning produced by fermenting soybeans with salt and the fungus *Aspergillus oryzae*, known in Japanese as koji (*from wiki*)



katsoubushi ~ skipjack tuna that had been dried, fermented, and smoked



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After having breakfast at the castle, I immediately returned home.

I more or less have other things to do.

The bread has gradually been used up, speaking of that, the natural yeast has also decreased.

Which reminds me, wouldn't the eastern country have rice, *miso*, and soy sauce?

Since they have katanas, there's a possibility they might have it.

Since I don't know whether or not I could procure it, I'll try asking.

Aah, since it's becoming hot, I'd sure like some shaved ice *ne*.

Something like a freezer... I haven't seen one *ne*. *U~n*, can't it be made with『freezing』? I should look for one if there's an opportunity.

Perhaps plum juice to prevent summer fatigue might be good too.

Since plum liquor... I won't be able to drink that *ne*.

Eh? 'Isn't this nothing but food' you say?¹

Well of course. Eighty percent of life's pleasures is food. Deliciousness is justice.

In other words, almost every person in this world has only enjoyed twenty percent of life.

I think it can be understood if you look at the recent Prince.

Even today, did he say 'I want to eat delicious things' desperately to that extent?

And with that said, today's plans are to make bread, then go see a magic tool dealer-san and grocer-san during the time it ferments². *Aah*, if they have a freezer, I'd like a container to make ice *ne*. Although it's slight different, shall I go to Graham-san's store?

Since it's been decided, I'll move into action at once.

First the leavening agent.

knead knead knead knead.

U~n, since I've made the effort, shall I try give it a twist?

I'll have half of it be regular bread, half of the remaining half will be butter rolls, then the remainder will be honey bread.



knead knead knead knead.

Alright, now we'll ferment it for one hour to start with...

In the meantime, let's go to the stores.

Though I say that, whether or not the eastern country distributes their goods, I don't know.

I started off by asking the grocer-san while searching for plums.

I found out surprisingly quick.

It seems a place named Sirius Firm has recently started a trade.

~~After hearing (of the fire in salo's town)~~ I immediately left. Ah, I also bought the plums okay?

Sirius Firm was located close to the castle on the main street.

「Hello~. I have something I'd like to ask.」

I went inside and called out.

By the way the interior, should I say it looks a lot like it's from a historical play with an impression of a western wholesale store?³

「Welcome. *Ojou-chan*, are you on an errand for your dad?」

Uwa, it's been a while since I've been completely treated like a child.

「No, I came here to look for something.」

Although it's troublesome being treated like a child, wasting time here will also be, troublesome.

It's fine to just confirm the necessary things.

Un, dealing with it like an adult.

「Looking for something? For *Ojou-chan*? Do we have it here?」

「I've heard this company here has recently begun a trade with an eastern country. Because of that, I wondered whether or not you handled the eastern countries' unusual seasonings and food, so I came.⁴」

「*U~n*, we certainly do business with the east but... Unusual food, *nee*. We actually have some but... does *ojou-chan* plan to buy it?」

Oh, you have it? I'd like to see it by all means.

「Yes, if possible, could you show me what kinds you have?」

「That would be a problem... Is your dad or mum not here? If it's *ojou-chan* alone, I can't sell it you know.」

Well, I'm sure it has to do with the price..... it wouldn't be good to carelessly show it to a child either.

「Aah, sorry. I, am called Sakura Fujino. I work as an adventurer. I'm 15 years of age.」

I made sure to present my adventurer's card.

「With that, would you be able to show me it?」

The man receiving me was surprised at my self-introduction, and surprised

again when he saw the adventurer's card.

It's been awhile *ne*, these exchanges as well.

But as expected of a merchant. He immediately recovered and responded.

「Please excuse me for that. Of course. Now now, please come inside. As I will immediately bring over a sample.」

Woah, even his interactions changed.

Could he be rubbing his hands together while inside the reception room? I was lead into the room with that sort of atmosphere.⁵

The man from just now immediately stepped out once I entered.

As I waited in the room for the time being, the man I interacted with, as well as two men carrying something in their hands, entered.

「Sorry to have kept you waiting. The merchandise we currently have that goes in accordance with Fujino-sama's request are just these.」

What was placed on top of the table was..... three small barrels and three wooden boxes.

「Allow me to explain. Firstly, this one is an alcohol made in the eastern country.」

He points to the first barrel. If it's alcohol, could it be *sake*? I don't know state inside the barrel but...⁶

「Excuse me, what kind of alcohol is it?」

「Yes, I've heard it's made with grain from the eastern country. Although it has a transparent water-like appearance, it's alcohol is stronger than poor wine.」

Is it, refined *sake*? If that's the case, since it can be used in dishes, it might be good to purchase it.

「Is it okay if I smell the fragrance a little?」

「Of course.」

kyupon, the cork was removed from the top of the barrel.

When I smelled it, it had a strong alcohol and a faint sweet fragrance. It seems

to be *sake*.

After saying my thanks, I asked for an explanation on the next merchandises.

The remaining merchandise were respectively, *miso*, soy sauce, dried kelp, *katsoubushi*, and tea.

Oo, I want everything!

But I was amazed when I heard the price.

For the smallest units, respectively, one barrel of *sake* (about 4.5litres) is 30 silvers, one barrel of *miso* is 15 silvers, one barrel of soy sauce is 20 silvers, twenty pieces of kelp starts from 10 silvers, two counts of *katsuobushi* for 15 silvers, and approximately five kilograms of tea for 40 silvers.

Although it may be related to transportation..... isn't that too expensive...?

U~n, I want it..... but...

A set of the smallest units would be 1 gold and 50 silvers.....right...?

I think the tea is particularly expensive but.... Could it be because it's a luxury item?

For now, although the price is high, it's for the sake of my dearly missed Japanese meals.

Let's buy it all! However, only, the smallest units...

Nevertheless, wouldn't they sell rice since there is *sake*?

「Excuse me, do you not sell something called rice?」

「Rice? Aah, since it wasn't an item from the eastern country, it wasn't brought along but, we do sell it.」

「Eh? If it's not from the eastern country, where is it being produced?」

「It's an item from the southern country but, if you're interested, shall I prepare some?」

「Certainly!」

So it wasn't imported from an eastern country *ne*.

The rice was immediately prepared. But, when compared to the rice eaten in

Japan, it's huge.

This is the difference!?

No, I can endure this. Even if it's huge, the rice is innocent!

By the way, it seems it was 20 silvers for ten kilograms.

It's strange how it feels very cheap after hearing the price of the tea.

Ah, the rice is brown rice.

I purchased it all in one go, since I naturally couldn't carry it home, I requested it to be delivered to my house.

Even though my recent earnings has been completely used up, I'm satisfied.

Now then, next is the magic tool dealer-san. Let us make haste.

I went to the magic tool dealer-san who took care of me in my previous life.

Because that place has magic tools that don't sell well made as a hobby, interesting magic tools will occasionally appear.⁷!

By the way, about the freezer... they sold it.

However, it had a concept of cooling and storing, but it seems there wasn't a concept of freezing and storing.

In other words, it appears it's one of the hobby magic tools that doesn't sell.

I immediately purchased it. Though the shopkeeper-like person looked at me with strange eyes. Wasn't it you who made it...?

By the way, since it happened to completely be a hobby, the price was 5 silvers, the price was completely dirt cheap.

Its size was around a freezer compartment of a small two-doored refrigerator.

Also, because they had an effect preservation magic tool, I purchased it.

It's said it can preserve the condition of something placed inside this magic tool (box), it's incredibly wonderful.

The price was a little under 15 silvers.

But if I have this, if I leave bread in the middle of leavening inside it, I can bake fresh bread anytime.

After requesting these to be delivered as well, I headed towards Graham-san's place.

I discussed with Graham-san whether something like an ice tray could be made.

.....He got angry.

However, I'm not someone who would give up from just that!

For the sake of my objective (shaved ice)!

I repeatedly explained (for around one hour) to the hateful Graham-san about the splendour of shaved ice, and the magnificence of adding ice into a beverage on a hot day and drinking it, and pleaded in order for him to somehow make it.

Whether Graham-san lost to my enthusiasm or not, he finally said 'I'll try make it'!

Partial dents were hammered into thin iron plates for the shape, when they were lined up, I requested to have another one with the dents as large as possible.⁸

It seems a prototype will be completed tomorrow. As expected of Graham-san, he works fast *ne!*

After I promised to visit tomorrow evening, I returned home.

When I returned home and prepared the leavened bread, the delivery from Sirius Firm had arrived.

For the time being, I had them carry it all to the storeroom in the basement.

When the people from Sirius Firm left, this time there was a delivery from the magic tool dealer-san.

I received the package, then installed it at a suitable location.

Somehow, I have a feeling the magic tools in the kitchen is steadily increasing...

While the bread leavens, I use the free time to prepare the plum juice.

And then dinner preparations.

Although I'd like to have a Japanese meal, the rice hasn't been polished and the little time left isn't enough.

I'll have to endure for today.

After what the Prince said in the morning, as expected, or should I say, as I feared...

He came right on time to eat dinner.

.....Well, I also thought 'he'd come right?', and prepared nevertheless.

other things

brown rice ~ wholegrain rice, turns into (white) rice after polishing



why doesn't Sakura just eat the brown rice? cause that shit is horrible (imo)

Lines

1. え？ 食べ物のことばかりじゃないかって？

2. ということで、今日の予定はパン作りと、発酵させている間に商会と魔具屋さんと八百屋さんですかね。
3. ちなみに中は、時代劇でよく見る問屋を洋風にした感じ？でしょうか。
4. それで、東の国の珍しい調味料や食べ物を扱っていないか、と思って来たんです」
5. 揉み手をしながら奥の応接間でしょうか？そんな雰囲気の部屋へ通されます。
6. 樽に入った状態だとわかりませんが…。
7. そこは趣味で全く売れない魔具も作っていましたので、たまに面白い魔具があったようです。
8. 形状は、薄い鉄板を叩いて部分的に凹ませ、それを並べたような物と、できるだけ大きな凹みをした物をお願いしておきます。

Chapter 49 ~ A Scene at the Guild

~things to know~

bishoujo ~ a beautiful young girl

de-gassing (bread) ~ to get rid of the carbon dioxide created by yeast

Chapter 49 – A Scene at the Guild

~

~

On the morning of the following day, I was at the Adventurers' Guild.

What am I doing here you ask?

I was 'looking up' at the commissions you see.

Right, the wooden tags are lined up on the surface of a wall representing guild commissions.

The lower ones have a height of one meter and the upper ones have a height of almost over two meters, the wooden tags are arranged with regular intervals.

When I initially registered, while being buried by adventurers that came to search for commissions, I somehow found a gap so I could search but...¹

I wonder when 'that' started?

When I came searching for commissions, I realized the adventurers cleared out an opening and I could look at the commissions from the very front.

Thanks to that, I was also able to slowly search for commissions just like that.

The upper ones?

Since I have a good eyesight, I wasn't worried about seeing them.

When I tried take the commissions by the upper area, an unknown adventurer would pick up that wooden tag and pass it to me.

Since I had to ask someone at the reception each and every time at first, I was saved a considerable amount of trouble.

To treat a stranger like me kindly, I thought ‘adventurers sure have a strong feeling of fellowship’.

I had thought adventurers were mostly rude people, but it looks like it’s necessary for me to correct that viewpoint *ne*.

So because of that, I’m currently searching for commissions at the front row.

—————A certain (*female*) adventurer’s perspective—————

~

Ah, that kid, also came today na.

Before my eyes, is a small girl that shouldn’t even reach 140cm.²

A girl with very long, black hair, which is unusual around this area.

The first time I saw that kid, was a month ago I think?

I remember being terribly surprised at that time.

On that day, I came to the guild as usual, I met up with my comrades and was going to receive a commission.

My comrades, a female archer who I’d been together with since becoming an adventurer, and a male warrior and tiger beastman that we’ve somehow mobilized together with after occasionally joining up for commission, a gathering of four people.

When we found a reasonable commission and brought it to the reception, that girl turned up.

At the most crowded period in the morning, a girl that appeared around 7 years old appeared in the guild.

My eyes were first charmed by that black hair.

Tied up by a ribbon, its length could reach her knees, her straight black hair

freely swayed.

The hair gave off a glossy radiance as it was struck by the morning light, just like the stars decorating the night sky, was what I thought.

I wonder what it feels like to touch it. I'd like to try touch it, was what I thought.

Next, my eyes looked towards her facial features.

A slender outline, though its slender, the eyebrows can be clearly seen. Those perfectly round eyes, with a blackness that could suck you up by looking at it. A straight bridged, small nose³. Small lips with a pink complexion.

Those well balanced arrangements, it's makes her look slightly mature, but those cute features are suitable for that small body.⁴

Bishoujo.

If there were ten people, everyone, well I wouldn't go with that, surely eight people would think, *bishoujo*.

The remaining two people? I think it's their preferences.

That girl, her cheeks are slightly flushed with excitement.

Cute...!

I was captivated.

Then a question immediately came to mind, why did this girl come to this kind of place.

This place is the Adventurers' Guild. A place where many ruffians gather, they're by no means outlaws, but it can't be said they have good manners.

The young girl that appeared in this sort of place, ignored the surrounding gazes and directly approached the reception.

A commission huh...?

I thought it would've been nice if we could accept it, but we're already in the middle of applying for this current commission at the reception. I awfully regretted it.

But still, my curiosity surged as I wondered what sort of commission it'll be, so I listened in on the conversation between the young girl and the receptionist.

「Good morning. I came for the registration exam.」

Like a rolling bell, it was a cute voice.

No, that's not it!

The conversation I'm listening to right now, I don't believe my ears.

This, small girl, is taking the registration exam?

Ahh, that's right. Thinking back, there was a time I was also like that.

I yearned for the thing called an adventurer, when I saw an adventurer for the first time, I immediately thought to myself, 'I want to become an adventurer'.

I guess perhaps she couldn't contain it anymore, and unconsciously rushed into the guild.

However, as I was thinking of such things, I couldn't believe the receptionist's next words.

「Yes, here is the commission for your exam. Please ask if you have any questions.」

Wait wait wait! No matter how you look at it, she doesn't even look 10 years old right!?

The registration for the guild, there's a rule where you if you're not of age, you won't be able to do it right?

Doesn't this young girl not meet the requirements to take the exams!?⁵

However, as if the young girl and the receptionist didn't notice my surprise, they continued their conversation.

「Well then, I'm off!」

That girl, said her farewell with an energetic voice, and left.

As I was dumbfounded, I met the gazes of the other adventurers who were in the same state that saw that...

For a short time after that, we didn't move. No, or should I say, we couldn't

move.

The adventurers that happened to come accept commissions that didn't know the situation, looked at us with odd eyes as we stayed like that for awhile. Coming back to my senses, I unintentionally shouted at the receptionist the girl talked to.

「Oi, what's the meaning of testing that girl from just now!? No matter how I see it, she doesn't meet the registration criteria! To allow that child to take the exam, what do you plan to do if something happens!」

The surrounding adventurers nod at my comment while looking at the receptionist.

However, the woman at the reception had a troubled expression, then made a surprising comment.

「Please calm down. I understand your feels but..., it's been confirmed by the guild as well as my superiors. She fulfils the registration criteria. Even I didn't believe it but...」

What, was that... So that means she's 15 years or older? Being that small!? I can't believe it, however, the guild has said they've confirmed it.

The guild has no reason to lie. So that means it should be true.

Because an unfamiliar adventurer near me shouted「a legal little girl!」while I was still in shock, I unintentionally sent him flying but, well, there shouldn't be a problem.

In the following days, I began seeing her in the guild.

It seems she completed the exam without any problems and officially became an adventurer.

It was then I happened to notice it by chance.

When I was looking at the commissions hanging on the wall as usual, I had a feeling I heard things like「au」and「can't see」from behind me.

When I inadvertently looked back, *pyonpyon*, a small head jumping up and

down came into view.

When I checked, it was that girl.

I'm guessing she wanted to see the commissions, she was frantically jumping up and down behind the lined up adventurers.

Without thinking, I shifted my body to make space, pulled the girl's hand and dragged her forwards.

The girl had a 'I don't understand what just happened' sort of facial expression, but when she understood the situation, she looked up at me and, 「Thank you very much.」

said those words while smiling.

「N-No, it's not a big deal.」

That was the best I could answer.

What is this, this throbbing? What's happened to me!?

When I somehow calmed down after repeating deep breaths over and over, once again, I noticed that girl jumping up and down.

It appears she wants to pick a commission on the upper area.

Even when that small girl stretched out her arm, she couldn't reach the commissions lined up at the very top.

She stretched out her arms and jumped up and down, but she's unable to grab it even though her hand could reach it.

When I grabbed the wooden tag the girl was reaching out to and passed it to her, she seemed slightly surprised, but immediately, she said, 「Again, thank you very much. How kind *ne*.」

with a limp smile.

She carried the wooden tag and ran over towards the reception with a *patapata* sound, but I, who remained, was unable to move from that spot.

Perhaps, no, it's certain my face is completely red.

I unintentionally raised my head towards the ceiling, and prayed to the God I

didn't believe in.

「Aah, God... My thanks...」

Afterwards, my comrades got angry and said 'how long are you going to look at the commissions for', but you could say it wasn't worth worrying about for the current me.⁶

From then on, whenever I happened to see her by the commission board, I would casually lend a hand.

When the other adventurers saw this, before I realized, they would also help her out.

I couldn't tolerate others seeing that smile of hers, but since it's to help her, I had no choice but to endure.

And today as well, there's a figure of a single adventurer in front of the commission board looking up at the ceiling.

~

~

In front of the commission board, I stared at one of the commissions.

On that wooden tag, 「Escort: Round trip to Fluud Slots: 5 Reward: 40 silvers Time frame: Departure on the 30th Rank: D」 was written.

The town of Fluud located two days north from the Royal Capital, it's a large city to some degree. A round trip would be 4 days. We shouldn't be staying over there for long either. And the reward isn't too bad...

Also, more than anything else, it means I can go to the other towns.

I may have forgotten about it, but my objective is to find a method to return to Japan.

I'm currently earning funds in the Royal Capital for my journey, but I think eventually, I'd like to leave for my journey.

Right, isn't this perfect for a rehearsal?

I decided to take this commission, I took the wooden tag and went towards the reception.

「I'd like to accept this commission.」

I handed over the wooden tag to Airi-san (the usual receptionist *onee-san*, I asked for her name) who was at the counter, and learned the details of the commission.

「An escort *ne*. Since the departure is in on the 30th, you won't be able to accept other commissions if you accept this one now, will that be okay?」

Today is the 28th, in other words, there's a period of two days.

「Yes, it's alright.」

It's my first outing. I want to properly prepare.

「I understand. Well then, the commission has been accepted. The departure is on the 30th at 4 koku. Please go to depot number three in front of the eastern gate before then. The journey is four days and you'll stay there for one day. Since the meals during the journey must be prepared by each individual, please take care *ne*. This is the certification of acceptance. The client is a merchant named Afgar Vesta」

I accepted the wooden tag containing the guild's emblem, then immediately left for town in order to purchase the necessary items.

After making rounds through town, I returned home after purchasing various things.

Eh? What did I buy, you ask?

First I bought wheat flour for the sake of making cookies and bread to substitute as snacks. The reserves have also decreased considerably *ne*. I also bought raisins and walnuts in order to make variations.

The other purchases are butter and milk, and also a large quantity of cheese.

Having cream cheese between cookies is also delicious, isn't it?

I also plan to make honeyed lemons for when I'm worn out.



Lemon peel cookies and bread would be good as well *ne*. They also go well with tea.

In addition, I also purchased things like spices and herbs that have considerably diminished.

As well as various jams and marmalades too.

Eh? What about magic tools for the journey, it's nothing but food, you say? I didn't want to *nee*, magic tools were ready for me when I became an adventurer you know⁷? There's no need to specially buy new ones anyway.

Besides, I wouldn't be able to endure having dull meals during the journey you know? It's four days as well.

Meals are the foundation for everything you know?

I sorted out the things I bought, then immediately began the preparations.

First is the bread *ne*. Since there are the breads I baked yesterday, today I'll make walnut bread.

Breaking the walnut shells and taking out the contents from within, I then heated them up in the oven.

I made the bread dough during that time.

I took out the heated walnuts from the oven and let it cool.

The walnuts were thoroughly mixed into the dough by kneading, then kneaded again, I struck it occasionally in order to let the air out, then kneaded it again.

knead knead knead knead, bash bash, knead knead knead...

After I finished kneading, the later steps are the same as ordinary bread.

I left it alone in order for it to ferment, then started making cookies.

mix mix mix, knead knead knead.

I put in the raisins, then kneaded again.

I laid it in the refrigerator after the batter was ready.

Next is to make cream cheese.

I picked up the milk and heated it with fresh cream and cheese.⁸

I squeezed a cooled lemon... *Oh, I'll have this squeezed skin made into lemon peels.*

I lightly mixed it, then filtered it with a cloth to separate it...

It was then placed in the fridge to cool down.

I prepared the skin that was set on the side for making lemon peels... was what I planned, but there's not enough lemon skin. A further two, three lemons were squeezed, then it was mixed with honey and placed in the refrigerator.

I start making the skins into lemon peels.

I repeatedly washed them several times, then I cut them into strips and sprinkled sugar over it.

Next will be to leave it until tomorrow, and it'll be completed.

It's about time the first fermentation has completed, so I continued the work on the walnut bread.

I de-gassed it and teared them up into small pieces, then arranged them into shapes.

I let them ferment for a little after I arranged them into shapes, de-gassed it again, then I shaped them and allowed it to ferment for a second time.

I retrieved the cookie batter, that was left to ferment, and teared them into

suitable sizes then started to evenly spread them out.

After briefly spreading them out, I threw them into the oven.

Until the time they're baked, I drank some honeyed lemon, and waited.

I took out the baked cookies then placed them on a plate.

Now then, until the walnut bread's secondary fermentation has completed, I should go take a look at Graham-san's place.

Conclusion..... as expected of Graham-san.

Although it's a little crooked, there was an ice tray to make small ice cubes, and an ice tray to make large ice cubes.

I gave my gratitude to the grumbling Graham-san, as I was about to return, because he said 'the craftsman in me wants to see the results of my work', it was decided he would come over to my house in the evening.

I'll go home and set the ice immediately.

When returned home, I set the ice tray in the freezer, then began finishing up the walnut bread.

I painted the surface with egg wash then threw it into the oven.

With the time it takes to bake, I cleaned up...⁹

I stored away the completed walnut bread and cookies and finished up cleaning, when I was about to begin dinner preparations, Graham-san turned up.

I lead him to the dining room, placed a plate in front of him, then I took out a knife and shaved the ice.

Graham-san didn't do anything and was completely expressionless, when I finished shaving two portions worth of ice, I transferred it into a cup (there was nothing handy) then poured jam on it.¹⁰

「Oijou-chan, what the hell is this? You eat ice?」

Graham-san was bewildered from his first time seeing shaved ice.

「It's called shaved ice. It's cold and matches well with jam you know.」

I take a mouthful of it with a spoon and eat it.

Un, it's shaved ice.

If I had to say, I'd ideally want syrup in place of this but...

Aah, perhaps pouring honeyed lemon might also be good.

Watching me deliciously eating, it seems Graham-san decided to eat as well.

「*n*...? This is...」

Graham-san immediately ate his next mouthful.

「*Ah*, Graham-san. If you rush like that...」

It seems I was too late.

「*UAA*, my head...!」

He groaned while holding onto his temple.

「That will happen if you eat something cold in one go you know. Please eat slowly, to the extent it where it won't melt.」

He nodded at my words and timidly put it in his mouth.

Graham-san easily ate it all.

「At the beginning I thought 'who the hell would eat ice', but... This fella would be nice on a hot day *na*.」

It seems he liked it.

「I think other things like jam and marmalade would also go well with it. You can have fun by adding your favourites to it.」

「I see... However, I was surprised at the time you suddenly came to request this weird object... *Jou-chan* sure comes up with unusual things *na*.」

How impolite *ne*.

「Isn't there that suspicious magic tool dealer-san? Hey, it's at a place two streets away from the main street. This freezer was found there you know? And

so I wanted to eat it...」

「Aah, that hobby place huh.... So another unusual thing was found...」

Huh? That magic tool dealer-san, could he be quite famous?

「By the way Graham-san, honestly, if there was a tool like this, it would be even easier to make shaved ice but...」

Saying that, I drew a picture of an ice shaving machine while explaining it to Graham-san.

I showed a simple picture of a ice shaving machine with a handle on the top turning while pressing down, and an edged tool attached to the bottom.

「Hou, this structure might be interesting. So, you want me to make this?」

「That's not it *nee*, I didn't say such a thing. I only said it would be easier to make shaved ice if I had this.」

「Hmph, well let's just pretend it was like that. Aight then, I can't say I'll be able to immediately make it but, I'll have a try and make it as an experiment.」

Oh? Did Graham-san actually really like the shaved ice?

「Ah, I'll also be leaving for a commission after the 30th for four days.」

「If that's the case, I'll create a prototype before you come back.」

Ooh, I'll have something to look forward to when I come back.

Graham-san returned with high spirits.

When I continued with the dinner preparations after Graham-san left, the Prince turned up as usual.

Finished with dinner, while drinking some after meal tea, I reported to the Prince about the commission on the 30th~ lasting for four days and I'd be absent.

The Prince grumbled about losing something to look forward to for five days but, to begin with, the Prince only decided on his own to come and eat.

Well, when I said I should return by evening on the fourth day, he became a

little better.

Lines

1. 登録した当初などは、依頼を探しに来た冒険者に埋もれながら、何とか隙間を見つけて探したものですが…。
2. 私の視線の先には、140cmもないだろう、小さな女の子。
3. すっと筋の通った、小さな鼻。
4. それらがバランスよく配置され、少し大人びた、しかしその小さな体に相応な可愛らしい顔立ちをしていた。
5. その少女は、登録試験を受ける条件を満たしていないではないか！
6. この後、いつまで依頼を見ているんだ、と仲間に怒られてしまったが、今の私にとってはどうでもいいことだと言えよう。
7. 嫌ですねえ、道具は冒険者になった時に揃えていますよ？
8. ミルクから取った生クリームとチーズを加熱してっと。
9. 焼けるまでの時間は、後片付けです…。
10. ガラムさんは何をしているのかさっぱり無表情でしたが、わたしは二人分の氷を削り終わると、カップ（手頃な物がなかったんです）に氷を移してジャムをかけます。

Chapter 50 ~ Journey to Fluud

~things to know~

iai ~ a technique of attacking as you draw your sword from the sheath, then sheathing it afterwards(?)

Chapter 50 – Journey to Fluud

~

~

The morning of the 30th, the time is 7:50am.

I'm currently at the depot in front of the Royal Capital's eastern gate.

In front of me is this time's client, Afgar Vesta-san.

And right now, I'm troubled.

「Like I've said *na, ojou-chan*. You ain't s'posed to lie. Look, I'll keep silent 'bout this, so quickly return it to the owner *na*.」

「Even though I've already said this many times, I'm the owner! This card is also mine!」

Right, it's that exchange.

Furthermore, this time's opponent is quite tough, or rather, he's completely ignoring my story.

Up until now, people understood when I displayed my adventurer's card, but it seems this person thought I picked up or stole this card.

I wonder, have we been exchanging like this for around ten minutes?

「*ka—, Ojou-chan* is stubborn *na*! This ain't a game! If you remain persistent, I'll hand you over to the guards!」

Who's the stubborn one!

「Might you be, Afgar Vesta-san?」

A dignified voice was heard from far away.

Afgar-san turned towards the direction of the voice.

I can't see from my position because of the carriage's shadow but..... it seems to be a woman from the voice.

「I received this time's escort commission, I'm Mary Mersol. My party behind me has also received the same commission.」

「Aah, I'm Afgar. Nice to work with you.」

Those people appear to have accepted the same commission it seems.

「By the way, is there some sort of trouble? Also, there should be five people if I'm not mistaken. Where's the last person?」

「*n?* Aah, it ain't a big deal but... Just a kid telling a lie about receiving this commission *na*. It looks like the last person still hasn't come yet. Really, even though I've said our departure is very soon...」

Are you still saying that?

「Like I've said, I formally received this commission from the guild, haven't I said this many times!」

I'm sure you just don't believe it.

「Is that the child who was saying that?」

The voice of the leader-like woman appeared from the carriages shadow.

「Aah, I'm sorry but, could you somehow drive her away?」

Although Afgar-san said something, that woman and I didn't move.

Where do I feel I've seen...?

「「AAH!?」」

Our pair of voices overlapped.

「The person who always helped me at the commission board!」

「The guild's angel!」

Eh?

I have a feeling I heard some strange words but...

No, leaving that aside.

「This is perfect! Please explain that I'm an adventurer, *onee-san*! No matter what I say, he wouldn't listen to my story!」

If it's this person, then she'd know I'm an adventurer!

「*Onee-san*.... *Onee-san* huh, that's nice.... *ufufufu*.」

Oh? Hey...? O~i?

「Mary, what happened? *Oh?* This kid is...」

hyoi, from the shadow of the *onee-san* called Mary, a different woman appeared.

「It's the child that always jumps up and down by the commission board.」

Wai-, always? I haven't done that recently you know?

「What's this? You girls, are you this *ojou-chan*'s acquaintance?」

「A—, rather acquaintance, we just recognise her. Because this child, is famous in the guild.」

What do you mean by famous? I haven't done anything to attract attention you know?

「The trouble you were just talking about, was this child?」

「Yeah, she said she received the commission from the guild *na*. She also showed me the card but, I think she just picked it up from somewhere right?」

「*Ahaha*, the card and certificate, could you show me it for a bit?」

I handed over my adventurer's card and commission certification to the lady.

「*Hm~m*, Sakura Fujino, 15 years old, *ah*, so you're 15 years old. Human race, rank is D. You're already rank D? It hasn't even been a month right? Isn't that too fast?」

「Well, various things happened...」

「Various things you say.... *n*, the certificate is genuine as well *ne*. The thing this child said, it's true you know. It seems she received the commission.」

I received my card and wooden tag back.

「*Oi oi*, even you're saying things like that? The card and certificate as well, weren't they just picked up or stolen?」¹

「A—, that's impossible. Don't you know about it? The glyphs won't show on the adventurer card unless the originator allows it you know? In addition, this child receives commissions at the guild almost every day.」

Ah, now that you mention it, there was that sort of function *ne*...

I had completely forgotten about it.

「*Eh?* That means, this *ojou-chan* is an adventurer, and came here after accepting the escort commission?」

「Didn't I say that from the beginning?」

「I'll say this while we're at it, I'm 15 years old as well.」

「*Eh?* 15 years old you say, seriously? You're even smaller than my 8 year old niece ya know?」

「*n*—, well I was surprised as well at first *ne*. Since it's written as so on the card, it shouldn't be a mistake.」

Afgar-san grumbled for a short moment, but when he finally calmed down, he suddenly turned his body in my direction and lowered his head.

「I'm sorry! Even though *ojou-chan* has been tell the truth this whole time, I arbitrarily decided you were lying from the start... I'm a failure of a merchant.」

It was me who was surprised at this.²

「Please raise your head! I also forgot about the matter of the card... I understand, so it's fine already.」

At that moment, the bell for the 4th koku sounded just on time.

「Look, it's already time for departure. Let's quickly prepare.」

Taking advantage of that, I change the topic.

「*n, aah*, that's right. Well then, I'll go check the on carriage. You guys can introduce yourselves.」

Aah, that's good. If he continued to lower his head like that, it would've been hard on my mentality³.

As I was feeling relieved, the voice of the lady from just now appeared.

「Is it alright to call you Sakura-chan? I'm Meriana Schuzlbal. Meriana is fine. The bow is my forte. And, Mary Mersol over here is a swordswoman *ne*. That male beastman over there is Bolt Mardeano, and that other man is Sindhi Melano *ne*. We've all formed a party together, everyone is D rank. Best regards during these five days *ne*.」

Meriana-san introduced the remaining members.

「Ah, yes. I'm Sakura Fujino. I look forward to working with you all.」

After exchanging a brief introduction, Afgar-san's voice was heard.

「*O~i*, we're leaving—.」

It seems we're ready for departure.

「*n, then shall we get on the carriage? Hey, Mary. You coming?*」

Meriana-san dragged Mary-san while she was still staring at the sky and boarded the carriage.

The carriage was a wagon with two canopies attached to it, it was fairly large.

Afgar-san was the coachman, one person could sit beside him, and the remaining four people could board the open luggage space.

Sindhi-san sat by the coachman's seat at the beginning, and Bolt-san was in charge of guarding the rear.

The remaining three people, chatted in the open space.

Since this was my first escort commission, I was taught various things.

I was also taught other things like the troubles of a female adventurer, and the stuff I should be careful of.

According to their story, there's very few female adventurers, it seems there are less than ten ~ twenty percent of them.

It appears there were many discriminations and animosities, or even sexual harassment towards female adventurers in the past, however the guild strengthened the punishments and made various improvements, and it seems to have become considerably better.

However, those kinds of consciousness are still around even now, women are often looked at lightly even when they receive commissions.⁴

Besides that, I was also taught advice for travelling.

Well, such as not to approach places with bad public order, or investigate as much as possible for the places you'll be going to for the first time, and things like not getting involved with suspicious commissions, I felt like there was a lot of fundamental advices.

For some reason, Mary-san persistently said things like 'if a stranger calls out to you, don't follow them', or 'don't accept food from a stranger'... Why was that?

Although we had a rest and lunch on the way, the first day passed by without incident.

Evening, probably around 6 o'clock. We decided to camp out beside the forest.

Bolt-san and Sindhi-san constructed the tents, Mary-san drew water, and Meriana-san and I gathered firewood I did a few round trips, and collected firewood for tonight's portion + a portion for myself to use.

The reason why, it's because it seems everyone has their own preserved food and water for dinner.⁵

In other words, the portions of the dishes I'll make will be guaranteed for myself and I won't get bothered, was what I thought.

Although I didn't have the time for lunch, since there's time for dinner, I think I'll at least make some soup.

Everyone gathered around the bonfire after their preparations were done, I separated a little and made a fire on my small stove.

I then filled a pot with water, as one would expect, it can't be passed as soup stock but, I teared some dried meat and bacon, cut them into small pieces, then boiled them together with vegetables.⁶

Though it would be convenient if there were something like instant soup stock...

After thoroughly heating the vegetables, I flavoured it with herbs and spices, and it's completed.

I transferred it to a mug and matched it with some bread, and that's dinner.

I lightly washed the pot that was used for the soup, then I filled it with water again and placed it over the fire.

It's for the after meal tea.

When I began to eat my dinner, everyone else had finished eating.

As I restlessly ate dinner by myself, Meriana-san peeked at me with great interest.

「Isn't it troublesome to go out of your way to cook? It's impossible for me. Although it's certainly nice to have soup, it's quite troublesome don't you think? Oh? This bread Sakura-chan is eating, you also ate this at lunch right? It's being easily teared off but, eh? It can be eaten without water or soup? What is that? Is Sakura-chan actually an amazing muscleman?」

That's a little, annoying.

It's troublesome if someone began one-sidedly talking when you're eating right?⁷

I think having a lively meal is different from a noisy one.

Furthermore, because she's bending her body forwards in order to peek, it's extremely difficult to eat.

Ah, a strand of hair slightly went into my mug!

「I just want to eat delicious things. So I cook for myself as well. I don't think

that it's troublesome. Also, regarding the bread, it's a secret.]

I reluctantly answered.

The reason why the bread is a secret, is because I think it'll be incredibly troublesome if I talked about it.

「Eh—, even if it's only that, it's amazing *ne*. As for me, all my meals are the same. Every day during a journey, it's preserved food you know? *Ne, ne*, that bread, even a bite is fine, let me eat some okay?」

「Wait, you're close! That's no good, since this is my meal!」

「Isn't that fine, don't be so stingy~. Just one bite, even a crumb is fine! Okay? Pleaseee~」

「I said that's no good, *ah*, wait, please don't pu-, *ah!*」

basha

Aah, the soup is.... Even though there was still half left...

「*acha~*, sorry *ne~?*」

Even if you apologize here...

「What happened?」

Maybe she was curious because of the noise we made, Mary-san approached.

「Meriana you, again...」

When Mary-san saw the spilled soup on the ground and the fallen mug, she seemed to have understood the situation.

「*Ahaha*, I've done it.」

From the conversation, it seems something similar has happened several times.

「Sorry, for Meriana troubling you...」

「No...」

Haa...

I awkwardly turned my back towards Mary-san, and restlessly ate the

remaining bread.

I washed the cup, made some herb tea, and finally relieve my mind.

It seems that while I was eating bread, Mary-san dragged Meriana-san and went somewhere.

Although I thought she wasn't a bad person at first... No, I think she isn't a bad person. Only, how do I say it.... Troublemaker? Even so, a neither ill willed nor self-aware natural airhead, isn't that the most troublesome type?

Oh right, about this time's companions, Mary-san has blond hair up to her shoulders, a cool beauty-san. Her height is also tall, with a slender body to go with it. As for her chest..... I can't tell since she's wearing a metal breastplate. Though I said she was cool, it's like she's distant towards me, her replies on most of our conversations we have are things like 「aah」 or 「that's right na」, nothing but single phrases⁸. The next thing I'll know, she'll be intently glaring at me. Could it be she dislikes me?

Meriana-san has light brown hair, a cheerful and lively woman. Her height is slightly shorter than 170cm? I think around there, but her characteristic is that self-asserting chest. Isn't that an F? She's easy to talk to, and as long as she has spare time, she'll talk to someone. I realized not long ago, but it seems, she's actually a troublesome person.

Sindhi-san is about the same as Mary-san, around 180cm I think? He has reddish blonde hair, a man around 25 years old. He's had almost no conversations with me, this person also looks at me with glaring eyes.

As for Bolt-san..... he's, big. He seems to be a tiger beastman from the story Meriana-san told me, his height should exceed 2m. I can tell he has brawny muscles even from over his clothing, together with his height, he's like a wall. He's expressionless, should I say, even when I tried starting a conversation, he only shook his head, I still haven't heard his voice. His features are his large body, the ears above his head and his tail.

Oh? Other than Meriana-san, I've barely had a conversation with them.

.....As expected, do they dislike me?

After a short time, I heard about tonight's lookouts from Mary-san.

With two shifts, it seems the first will be me and Sindhi-san, during the night will be Mary-san, Meriana-san, and Bolt-san taking turns.

Honestly, it seems there's going to a delicate atmosphere no matter who I partner with, it's depressing.

As for the better one, it would be..... Bolt-san?

Leaving those sorts of feelings in another place, Sindhi-san and I were left as everyone else slept.

Sindhi-san and I were sat across the bonfire in silence.

It's, awkward...

I tried to bring up a topic, but because Sindhi-san was intently staring at me, I gave up.

In order to do something about this silence, I tried serving some tea.

「U-Umm..., would you like to, drink some tea?」

I was ignored.

Furthermore, the sound of me drinking tea and chewing on cookies, that were substituting as dinner, could be heard during that awkward atmosphere.

「.....Hasn't been one month.」

Without any warning, Sindhi-san began to talk.

「Eh?」

I completely didn't understand what he was talking about, and ended up letting out a stupid sound.

「D rank after a month of registration? Normally, it takes half a year to become D rank. What on earth did you do?」

It seems like he's not convinced with me being a D rank since I'm a beginner.

I thought it would be simple to rise if you accept commissions, but it seems it's not that easy in reality.

For example, the harvesting commissions I mainly accept, there are many of them which usually can't be completed in a single day. It's because for a beginner, it's difficult to find the place where the medicinal herbs grows.

Also, even if the place where they grow is found, a number of them would already be picked and there won't be enough, so it generally takes a number of days.

I grasped the said locations from my previous life's knowledge, many people can't go to those locations to harvest.

In other words, most of the commissions I accept in the morning can be completed on that same day, which can be said is an abnormal occurrence.

.....I haven't considered that sort of thing.

Since I also took half a month to become an E rank, much less becoming a D rank, it seems it's an impossible occurrence.

「Even if you ask me what I did, I've only just accepted commissions. Well, could I say it was 'luck' that I became a D rank? Though it was a coincidence, I caught some kidnappers so...」

「Luck you say? With just that, isn't it impossible to become a D rank with that short amount of time? Kidnappers huh, *aah*, is it that kidnapping incident? *Hmph*, you seem to be good at walking around *na*.」

I felt something like an unpleasant aura, but.

「However, I won't accept it. Even I almost took a year to become a D Rank. Even catching those culprits, you just seized them after somebody defeated them after all right? How can I accept you becoming a D rank, the same as me, practically right after you registered!？」

Even if you say that..... right?

Suddenly, I had a feeling my ears heard some sort of growl.

Animal...? No, those footsteps..... several presences...

It's approaching this way.

Sindhi-san hasn't noticed yet.

「Excuse me, could you wake the others up? Something is approaching.」

I said that while standing up with my weapon.

Numbers are..... five, no, could it be six?

I took out the lamp magic tool from my baggage and illuminated the surrounding area.

「Something, you say..., alright. What're you going to do?」

Sindhi-san had a doubtful expression, but it seems he noticed the presences.

「Their numbers are probably, six. I'll gain some time, so I'll leave everyone to you.」

I replied while staring at the forest.

「I'll return immediately.」

I understood Sindhi-san headed towards the tents from his presence.

「Now then, I wonder what'll appear...?」

I slowly walked towards the forest.

「GURAAAAAAA!」

What appeared from the forest was a bipedal..... pig?

A stout and chubby body and a head which looks just like a pig. It's height is around 2m and its holding an axe and a sword. Shabby armor was attached to its body.

It's probably, an Orc.

Contrast to its dull body, I was attacked with quick movements.

The numbers were as expected, six of them.

「fu!」

I cut down the one that attacked me at the beginning with *iai*, then killed the next one with a diagonal slash.

I quickly jumped back so I wouldn't be covered with the blood spurt, then turned to the remaining Orcs.

With the two Orcs killed within seconds, the remaining raised their voices in anger and immediately attacked.

I cleaved open the stomach of an Orc attacking with his arms swinging, then continued to cut that Orc's body in two.

When they saw that, an Orc stopped moving for an instant so I cut its leg, then finished it off when it fell down.

Although the last Orc tried to escape, I instantly approached and cut it down.

All the Orcs were killed, I confirmed whether there was anymore, then finally relaxed my guard.

Although I didn't feel anything at the time I fought, the moment I relaxed, from the fact that I took away lives and the sensation of cutting flesh, I shivered.

If I think about it, this was my first time I cut and took away a person's (?) life with my own hands.

Not being as shocked as I thought, as expected, could it be my previous life's influence?

When I was slightly absorbed in my thoughts, I felt the presence of people approaching.

「Oi, are you alright!?」

It seems Sindhi-san woke everybody up.

「I'm fine. Since it's over already.」

I answered while wiping the blood off the katana and returning it to its sheath.

「Over, you say..... these guys, aren't they Orcs!? Did you do this yourself?」

Well of course? Since I'm the only one here.

「Yeah, this weapon helped me out.Something wrong?」

When I looked, everyone was petrified. Was there something strange?⁹

「.....Something wrong you ask, that, isn't that obvious!? An Orc is a C rank monster you know? We can barely defeat one even with several of us D ranks. Just you alone with six of them, and even defeating them in such a short time...」

.....Could they have been that strong?

I do think they were quick, but...

If it was master, master would immediately defeat around fifty of them you know?

「No, leaving that aside, why would Orcs appear in this sort of place? This area has a relatively small amount of monsters, even if there were, it should be Goblins at most but...」

Mary-san pondered with serious expression.

Come to think of it, the Chivalric Order regularly patrols along this highway, monsters should've been immediately eliminated.

Which means, could they have recently appeared?

I didn't understand even when I tried thinking about it.

「For the time being, let's return to the camp. We'll just report this to the guild, isn't that fine?¹⁰」

Everybody nodded at my words.

When we returned to the camp site, everybody (Afgar-san is sleeping) surrounded the bonfire.

That's because, since it's almost time to change lookouts, even if they slept now..... that's how it seems.

「I'm sorry about that.」

Sindhi-san suddenly apologized.

「Because I wasn't aware of your ability, I said those sorts of things. Most likely, I didn't want to accept it. I think it's my foolish pride but... A position I took almost a year to reach, I think I was envious of you that took a month. That's why...」

A—, un, well, I'd also think that's strange *ne*.

「Please don't worry about it. I believe it can't be helped you thought like that you know? Because of this appearance of mine.」

Ah, I've somewhat become sad after saying that.

「However, you have the ability. To defeat six Orcs by yourself. It's even difficult for a C rank to do alone you know?」

「Like I said, this weapon helped me out you see. If I didn't have this, it would've been a harder fight.

Could it be thanks to the glyphs? I recalled the excessively sharp katana.

Although it was an expensive purchase, I think that that alone was worth it.

「*Ne ne*, doesn't that weapon have an unusual shape? Where did you get your hands on it? Though you said it helped you, does it have some special power?」

It appears Meriana-san showed an interest for the katana.

「Although I purchased it at Graham's Weapon Store, Graham-san said it was purchased from a merchant from an eastern country. I've had it etched with glyphs, but I don't think it has any 'special' powers.」

Since there's no reason to hide it, I answered.

Otherwise, it might serve as trouble again...

「Graham's Weapon Store you say, that hard to please dwarf's shop? *Heeh~*, so you bought it *ne*? That place, although the items are good, I've heard the shopkeeper won't sell if he dislikes you, you know?」

Hard to please...? It didn't seem like that to me...

Besides, to not sell if he dislikes you, how much of stubborn old man is he?

「Is it okay if you show it to me it for a little?」

While saying those words, Meriana-san's hand had already grasped the katana.

Aah, it'll turn into something troublesome again if I decline *ne*...

「Hey Meriana. Stop that.」

Although Mary-san rebuked her, Meriana-san didn't listen.

「I don't mind but.... Please be careful okay?」

Since I think it's useless even talk, I submissively handed it over.

「Thank you. Oh, it's quite heavy ne.」

Well that's because, it's a lump of iron so...

「Oh~, it's single edged? Ah, it's the glyphs. I wonder what's written?」

「It's 『Fixing』 and 『Sharpness』 you see.」

「Heeh. Ahaha, what a weird shape~.」

She drew it from the sheath, then swung it around with a hum

「Wait, isn't that dangerous? Stop it.」

「Tsk, oka~y.」

After getting scolded by Mary-san, she stored away the katana while sulking.

She's a childish person ne...

After our talk, since the time to switch had passed before we realized, I decided to go to bed.

Lines

1. カードや証明書だって、拾ったか盗んできたんじゃないのか？」
2. これに驚いたのはわたしの方です。
3. ああ、よかったです。あのまま頭を下げ続けられるのは、精神的にきついです。
4. ですがいまだにそういった意識はあるそうで、依頼を受けても女性と言うことで軽く見られたりすることも多いそうです。
5. というのも、どうやら皆さんは保存食と水で夕食を済ませると言っていたからです。
6. そこにお鍋をかけて水を張り、さすがに出汁は取れませんが、干し肉、ベーコンを千切り、小さめにカットした野菜を入れて煮込みます。
7. 食べてる時に一方的に話しかけられるのって困りますよね？
8. クール、といいましたが、わたしには余所余所しく、交わした会話のほとんどは「あ

あ」や「そうだな」といった、単語のみです。

9. 何かおかしいことでもあったのでしょうか？

10. このことはギルドに報告しておく、ということでいいんじゃないでしょうか？」

Chapter 51 ~ Public Bath

Chapter 51 – *(highlight)*

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.....?

It's, morning?

There's a presence of a person. In order to confirm that presence, I gently open my eyes.

「!!!!」

I'm surprised. Really surprised.¹

What was it, you ask? There was a person's face in front of me when I woke up you know!?

Furthermore, it was really in front of me, a position where I could feel their breath!

「M-Mary-san!? What are you doing!!?」

Right, it was Mary-san who was looking into my face.

I shifted my body and somehow got up.

「N-No, I wasn't doing anything you know! I came to wake Sakura up. And then, that, sleeping face was...」

What did she say, I couldn't make it out since her voice was so small during the middle of it...

「Though I understand you came to wake me up... However, why was your face so close?」

From my question, Mary-san's face had turned bright red for some reason.

「W-W-Why? That, that's right! I used some strength since you wouldn't get

up, so because of that, I'd gotten that close before I realized. There's no mistaking it! I never thought about something like a k-kiss you know!?」

「Ha? Kiss? What is she talking about? If I'm not mistaken, one wrong move and we would've been at kissing distance²...」

「What? I don't really understand but... For the time being, you came to wake me up right? Thank you very much for specially doing that.」

「N-No, don't worry about it. ...If I had to say, I would be the one thanking you (whisper).」

「U~n? Isn't something, strange? Although I don't know what's strange...」

「Hey~, how long is it going to take to wake her up? Quickly have your meals so we can depart!」

Meriana-san appears to be angry since we're slow.

I quickly prepared in order not to keep them waiting any longer, then headed to where everybody was.

Nothing particularly happened during the journey, the town of Fluud came into view.

It's probably 3 o'clock in the afternoon right now. We arrived earlier than I thought.

Although it appears that the town of Fluud is smaller than the Royal Capital, it seems it's the third largest town in Sobule.

After our carriage received a check at the town's entrance, we proceeded inside the town.

The impression inside the town, it doesn't appear to be much difference from the Royal Capital from what I see.

Maybe there's less street stalls compared to the Royal Capital?

The carriage continued to advance without change, then stopped in front of an inn.

This seems to be the inn we're staying at today and tomorrow.

.....It's a little worn out, no no, it's a building with history *ne*.

When we entered the inn, the interior didn't betray its outer appearance..... I can feel the history.

U~n, I'd rather search for another inn since it's fine if I pay out of my own pocket.³

It seems Afgar-san has some business to do tomorrow.

Since the commission's contents was for the journey, it seems we're free to do what we want until the morning of the day after tomorrow.

Oh? Although it's late, if you think about it, isn't it weird having five escorts to a town two days away from the Royal Capital, furthermore, travelling along a highway considered relatively safe? But the reward wasn't that high.... Maybe, I'm over thinking it?

Ah, it seems the room arrangements are, Afgar-san in a private room, and the rest of us will be separated into the men's room and the ladies' room.

I went to my designated room and dropped off my baggage.

Since this was perfect, I asked the two people about the thing I thought about earlier.

The result, five people certainly appears excessive, but it seems monsters and thieves have recently appeared along the highway, so it looks like it's not that weird.

Aah, now that you mention it, we were attacked by Orcs last night *ne*.

fumu, was I worrying too much after all?

「More importantly, let's go to the bath! Since we didn't get to enter yesterday~.」

Meriana-san suddenly suggested that sort of thing.

Could we enter at such a time? It's not even 4 o'clock.

「The bath huh..... that's right. What will Sakura do?」

Mary-san as well...? Could we even enter at this time? No, leaving that aside, does this inn have a bath?

「If you ask me if I want to enter, then I'd like to but... It's only 8 koku you know? Can we enter?」

「A—, is this Sakura's first time at Fluud? Fluud has a public bath you see. That place can be entered anytime from 6 koku until 12 koku.」

'And so that's why this town has many inns without baths', was what I was told.

So it's something like a bathhouse huh.

Since it's been awhile, I'll try going. Rather, I won't be able to take a bath if I don't go to the bathhouse...

I told them I wanted to go as well, then prepared my bath set, like soap and a change of clothes, from my baggage.

When I finished my preparations, those two guided me towards the public bathhouse.

After getting out of the bath, there has to be milk *ne!*

No, it doesn't mean I need to replenish a bit of calcium okay?

Hey, it's something like, a Japanese person's aesthetic, isn't it?

It's not like I'm worrying about such things like my height or my chest that I'm drinking it, okay?

Besides, this is goat's milk.

By the way, it seems there's no scientific evidence that drinking cow's milk will also make your chest grow larger.

When I heard that..... I was shocked.

Eh? What happened in the bath?

I'd prefer not to remember it if possible...

The public bath was a large splendid building, built entirely with bricks.

The interior was just like a Japanese bathhouse, it was separated into the

men's bath and women's bath.

There were no showers in the bathroom, it was a large bathtub and two small bathtubs.

When I looked at Mary-san and Meriana-san, they drew water from the small bathtub then washed it over their body, so I imitated them, I realized the small bathtubs were each filled with hot and cold water respectively, so the temperature had to be controlled before washing your body.

Also, Mary-san was normal when we were coming to the public bath, but her state changed once we entered the dressing room. Her face had become bright red and her breathing was disordered... What could've happened?

I was concerned, but apart from that, Meriana-san was the bigger problem⁴. Meriana-san said she would wash my back, but she continued to touch weird places because her hands kept slipping... She still made a racket when we submerged ourselves in the bath, finally, the manager-san (?) got angry.

Enough about that!

I learned about the cruel difference in society.

Breasts even if I face the right, breasts even if I face the left.

I searched for the chests that stood out, but the smallest is C. The largest? fu...

Furthermore, I ended up noticing a child around 10 years old with a B.

Is this the thing called despair...?

.....Oh, there's sweat coming from my eyes...

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SAD.

Lines

1. 驚きです。吃驚です。
2. 確かに、一つ間違えば口付けでもしそうな距離でしたが・・・。

3. うーん、自腹でいいので他の宿を探したくなっています。
4. 気にはなりましたが、それよりもメリアナさんの方が問題だったので、それどころではありませんでした。

Chapter 52 ~ The Way Home

Chapter 52 – The Way Home

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The following day, I took a stroll through town, but there wasn't anything special in particular.

If I had to say, I bought some clothes.

Well, the pants were cheap you see.Although it's for children *ne!*

As it continued on with nothing happening, the day we return to the Royal Capital had arrived¹. No, it's not like I wanted nothing to happen you know?

Just like the time we arrived here, we departed during the morning.

U~n, because I've heard that monsters and bandits have been increasing, I made sure to be careful.

I would be nice if nothing appears *ne*.

We proceeded along the highway while horse-san's hooves resounded with a '*kappora kappora*' noise.

Just like the time we came, we stopped for several breaks during the journey.

The carriage suddenly stopped.

We just had a break earlier. Could something have happened?

That question was immediately answered by Bolt-san's words.

「It's monsters.」

It was my first time hearing Bolt-san's voice. No, it's not about that.

Monsters?

When I looked, they were considerably far away, but there was certainly something approaching.

There's more than ten just from looking.

「What should we do?」

I tried asking the other members, but I'm sure there's only one answer.

「Kill them, of course.」

Meriana-san answered.

Well, this is our purpose for being escorts *ne*.

The distant group saw us halt to a standstill, then came running while raising a weird voice.

「Afgar-san, please hide in the luggage compartment. The others will get off and exterminate them. Don't let them approach the carriage.」

Mary-san calmly gave instructions.

Meriana-san prepared her bow in the coachman's seat, the rest of us got off the carriage and went in the front.

When they approached, I discovered the monsters were short, around 150cm (still larger than me), a large head with dark skin and an ugly face, and long pointed ears. It's a Goblin. The numbers are..... not even twenty.

Was it not good to believe monsters wouldn't appear when we departed...?²

I stopped at a place slightly in front of the carriage, and met the approaching goblins.

With a 'hyu' sound, the Goblin running as the vanguard was pierced with an arrow, and fell. It was Meriana-san.

When the Goblins had approached us, three of them had fallen.

Nevertheless, there were still over ten of them were remaining. So it's a little over three for each person?³

Four of them had approached my direction.

「*gigii!*」

I cut down the Goblin rushing forwards while it was raising a strange voice in a single blow, then slashed at the nearby Goblins.

The remaining three were immediately killed and fell down, I checked my surroundings so there weren't any others, then checked on the other's situation.

Mary-san..... is dealing with two of them, but there were also two defeated by her feet. It seems she's fine *ne*.

It seems Sindhi-san is slightly having trouble with a Goblin that keeps moving but...

Ah, he defeated one. There's two remaining.

I thought maybe I should help, but it seems dangerous to approach since he's swinging around a large sword.

I put that on hold and checked on Bolt-san.

Bolt-san is also using a large sword, but maybe it's because of his strength, he can quickly pull it back⁴. Two of them had already been defeated, there's one remaining.

Which means it's Sindhi-san's area right?⁵

When I went to go help Sindhi-san, something was suddenly reflected in the corner of my vision.

When I turned my awareness to that direction, I saw three Goblins in the thickets beside the highway. They had bows prepared.

「Three of them with bows in the thickets at the front left!」

While I raised my voice to notify the other members, I ran to exterminate them.

Sending *ki* to my feet, I accelerated to attack in one stroke.

「*seiya!*」

Killing one with the force from approaching, I then turned my body and swung my katana as I was at the remaining Goblins.

「The last!」

After killing the remaining one, *fuu*, I caught my breath.

When I looked back, it appeared the remaining Goblins had also been disposed of, after confirming each other's safety, we cleaned up (since the carriage can't pass if the corpses aren't moved).

After clearing the corpses, we returned to the carriage and resumed our journey.

「It's my first time seeing Sakura-chan fight but, it's amazing *ne~* Four of them were killed in a blink of an eye. Also, when you faced the ones holding the bows. That speed was *a~mazing*, but what was that? Sorcery?」

Oh no.... I seem to have attracted Meriana-san's interest.

U~n, perhaps, she won't be able to connected it even if I say *qigong*...

「It isn't sorcery. Even though it resembles it. More or less, it's *taijutsu*.」

「Is it? That sort of *taijutsu*, I've never heard of it though.... *Ne*, do you think I can also do it?」

「That's... I don't know. Even if you can use it, I think it'll take a long time you know?」

Actually, I believe there are different degrees on how to use it.⁶

But I think that'll take a considerable amount of time.

According to master, it's said it's necessary to first feel the energy (life force) in your own body. That can take several years to do if you're fast, it seems some drop out at that step.

Since I was a mage in my previous life, I knew how it was done so I could feel it in a week...

And for the next step, that energy has to be sublimated into *ki* (refining *ki*).

The refined *ki* can then be used as you want once you become an adult, it seems.⁷

It's said you just need to get accustomed to it afterwards. *Ki* can be refined

faster as well if you get accustomed to it, the efficiency of converting *ki* from energy can also improve.

At the time I began as well, I would collapse after refining a little bit of *ki*.

In other words, it'll take at least several years until Meriana-san reaches a point where she can use *ki*.

Since it's not possible for me to teach her the entire way, let's properly deceive her.

「Is that so? Even though I thought it'd be interesting to use, it can't be that easy huh.」

It seems I've successfully deceived her.

After that, we arrived at the Royal Capital without any incidents.

Afger-san immediately parted with us when we entered the town, after reporting the completion of the commission and about the monsters with Mary-san and the others, we separated at the guild.

It's been a long time, my home. Well, it hasn't actually been a long time.

Although I want to take it easy, delicious food won't appear if I sleep.

However, I'm tired today...

I had forgotten, but isn't there no decent ingredients in the first place!?

Since I've been away from my house for five days, there's nothing fresh.

There are things like vegetables, bacon, and cheese that can be kept for a long time.

As far as bread goes, they're leavening in the preservation magic tool so I could bake them...

Would Pasta and German Potatoes be okay?

Pasta is..... a—, there's no milk either. As expected, do I have to go shopping?

It couldn't be helped, I went to buy the minimum ingredients.

Milk and eggs and fruits, vegetables..... *oh?* They've increased before I realized.

Somehow, I think I've purchased some items I didn't plan to get, but first of all, dinner.

I decided the menu to be soup, Carbonara, and German Potatoes.



Once I decided, first is to make the consommé. Though it's simple *ne*. While I stewed the chicken bones, I boiled the potatoes and... While I cooled the boiled potatoes, I baked the bread...

Aah, I have a feeling it's going to take some effort after all.

While I was thinking that, I continued cooking.

Mix, fry, boil, fry, mix.

In the end, it took almost three hours to complete dinner.*Huh?*

Aah, since Japan had things like consommé solids, I could easily make soup ~~potato~~ *ne*.

What is this, I made a mistake choosing the menu *ne*, *ahaha*..... *haa*.

As usual, the Prince also came over during the time I was cooking.

How do I say it, I'd like to overcharge him on days like this right? No, I won't do it though.

After this and that, at the usual dinner scenery.

While I told the Prince about the events of my journey, things like fighting the Orcs and Goblins, we finished dinner.

When I finished the story about the fight, the Prince told me not to do dangerous things but... How do you become an adventurer without doing dangerous things *ne*?

Although various things had happened, my first escort commission ended safely.

Lines

1. そして何もないまま、王都へ戻る日になりました。
2. 出発の時に魔物が出ないようになって思ったのがいけなかつんでしょうか... ?
3. 一人3匹+αってところですか。
4. ボルトさんも大剣を使っていますが、力があるのか引き戻しが早いです。
5. となるとシンディさんのところですかね？
6. 実際は、程度の差はあれ使えるようになる、と思います。
7. 練った気を自分の好きなように扱えれば一人前、らしいです。
8. ああ、日本ではコンソメとか固形でしたし、スープも手軽に作れましたしね。

Chapter 53 ~ Graham-san and Shaved Ice

Chapter 53 – Graham-san and Shaved Ice

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The day after I returned to the Royal Capital.

Because I'm taking today off, I need take care of the housework like laundry, making bread, and shopping.

Look, there's five days worth of laundry, and today's portion of bread have run out... There won't be any ingredients if I don't go shopping *ne*.

First was the laundry, after that I made yeast.

While I left the yeast to ferment, I went to do the shopping.

I had them delivered as usual because of the quantity.

I went to Graham-san's place after shopping was over.

Hey, the shaved ice machine I requested before leaving. Since the prototype should be done *ne*.

「Hello~. Graham-san.」

I've always thought about this, but is it okay that there's nobody attending the store?

These things could easily be stolen by someone like a thief you know?¹

「*Ou, jou-chan* huh. So you came *na*.」

Just as usual, Graham-san appeared from the back of the store.

「Yes, I returned yesterday evening. Leaving that aside, how's 'that' going?」

「Aah, it's built ya know. Follow me.」

As expected of Graham-san.

I followed while being excited.

「It's this fella.」

「Ooh~.」

The shaved ice machine was there, just as I imagined it. It seems the frame was put together with wood, and the burdened parts with iron. The handle was wrapped around in leather. Although the size is bigger than what I expected *ne*.

When I looked at Graham-san, he approved with a 「go for it.」 so I tried touching it.

「Ooh~.」

The frame is surprisingly sturdy for being wood.

「It's because I had *jou-chan's* explanation, and also the drawing *na*. How's that? I myself think it came out nicely.」

As expected, although it doesn't compare to the shaved ice machines in Japan, it's sufficient to be used at home.

「I was right to have asked Graham-san.」

While I rotated the handle with a *kurukuru* sound, I expressed my honest impressions.

「Naturally. Wait a second *na*.」

Maybe he was happy to be praised, Graham-san rummaged around with a happy voice.

「We need to see it actually work *na*.」

grin, what he took out while smiling, was ice.

「As expected, something good can't be made unless you try it out.」

The thing behind Graham-san was..... a freezer...?

「I had that playboy's store make it.」

Graham-san..... does he like shaved ice that much?

While Graham-san received my gaze, he set the ice on the shaved ice machine then rotated the handle.

gari gari gari gari

The thin shaved ice was caught on a plate, creating a mountain.

「Now, try eating it.」

Various types of jam and marmalade was taken out with the shaved ice.

Graham-san...

I put a simple strawberry jam on mine, then ate a bite.

「*nn~*」

Cold.

Different from being shaved with a knife, the almost equally thin ice that's been shaved melts inside my mouth.

shaku shaku shaku..... gulp

「*Ow ow...*」

It seems the speed I ate it was a bit too fast.

Graham-san laughs at me who was grasping my temple in agony.

「*Ha ha ha.* I see, so I successfully made it huh.」

He seems to have understood my behaviour.

「And, how much is it?」

After I finished eating the shaved ice, I asked about the cost of the shaved ice machine.

「Let me see..., 10 silvers, is what I would've said, but I got to eat such interesting thing *na*. 5 silvers is fine.」

Aah, it seems he made himself one *ne*. If that's the case, then I won't be reserved...

「I understand. *Aah*, mixing it with honey and lemon juice is tasty as well you know? Please try it.」

I told him about a simple syrup as gratitude.

「fumu, I'll try it out. Thanks a bunch.」

I hugged the shaved ice machine and returned home.

That evening, the Prince had shaved ice as dessert for a change.

He was surprised at the deliciousness within the coldness and asked how it was made, so I told him about various things like the freezer and the shaved ice machine, I explained how I purchased it from the magic tool dealer-san and I had Graham-san made it.

I thought it was just going to be just that but...²

In the future, things like the magic tools made by the magic tool dealer-san as a hobby would sell ridiculously, Graham-san would be troubled by increased orders of things other than weapons, those kinds of rumours would be heard.

.....Come to think of it, when the Prince came over several days later, I had a feeling he said something like having a stomach ache.



mmm

Lines

1. 泥棒とかだと簡単に盗まれちゃいますよ？
2. それだけのことだと思っていたのですが....。

Chapter 54 ~ Kidnapping

Chapter 54 – *(highlight)*

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~

「Now, what will you do?」

Right now, I'm being surrounded by ten hoodlum-like men with swords hanging from their hips.

Compared to them, my appearance is only a thin coat and shorts.

I'm in a slight pinch.

I woke up just as usual today as well, I did my usual unchanged morning preparations, then went to do my daily jogging.

Right, not any different from usual, was what this day should've been.

What was different from usual was, when I finished my jogging and returned back home, it happened after I entered the road leading to my house from the main street.

Six men appeared and blocked my way.

And then I immediately heard footsteps from behind.

When I took a fleeting glance at them, four men were standing behind me at a distance.

「Sakura Fujino I'm assuming. Can I have you behave yourself?」¹

The voice of the man with a good body build at the front sounded out.

The men were dressed in the standard clothing of the town's inhabitants that were slightly torn.

They have an appearance of a hooligan. However, their body builds and

movements are clearly not of a hooligan.

Why am I...?

A question sprang out, but at any rate, I must somehow get myself out of this situation.²

The men have swords hung on their hips.

I have no weapon on hand.

It's a considerably severe situation.

「Aren't you mistaking me for someone else?」

Although I understood it was desperate, I answered with that.」

「Sakura Fujino, adventurer. Has an appearance of a child of around 7 years old with long black hair. She has a shabby child-like body build—「Who's the child with a cliff!? Do you have knotholes for eyes!? I properly have them!」」*(note: cliff = flat chest/body(?)*)

Ah, I just...

「It seems it's certainly the right person. If you behave obediently, you won't have to go through any pain. I'll have you come together with us.」

「I decline.」

I'm being taken captive? A kidnapping..... no, it's not *ne*. Could this have been ordered by someone?

「We're taking you with us, is what it means. It's fine even if you don't choose the method.」

A threat huh.

It's currently 6:30am. There's no one in the surroundings.

It seems I can't expect help.

「.....Even so, I decline.」

Six people in front and four people behind.

If I make a pre-emptive strike in the direction of the four people and immediately go out to the main street...

「Is that so. In that case, we'll have no choice but to take a firm approach.
.....*Oi.*」

When the man with the best body build raised his hand signalled, then another man appeared.

.....A small boy was held in his arms.

「If you don't behave yourself, you understand, right?」

A hostage huh.

Has the boy fainted? He hasn't moved in a little while.

I can't see his face but..... he's probably a boy from the neighbourhood.

「Now, what will you do?」

The well built man asked for an answer.

「.....I understand, so please let go that boy.」

I relaxed my body and said those words.

「I can't do that. I've also heard you can do taijutsu. So first of all, you need to be constrained.」

When I made a small nod at what the well built man said, a man behind me approached me and tied up my body.

「Are you satisfied with this? Please let that boy go.」

「Mm, let him go.」

When the man who was holding onto the boy casually separated his hands, the boy tumbled down and fell in place.

The moment the boy fell, the boy's hair separated and fell to the ground.

Afterwards, what could be seen on his face was..... nothing. No eyes, no ears, no nose, no mouth.

「A doll!?」

As I unintentionally shouted, my head was struck with a strong impact.

「That's how it is. To fall for this sort of trick *na.*」

My consciousness was swallowed up by darkness just like that.

My head, is throbbing...

Why, am I...

My consciousness slowly returned.

When I opened my eyes, I was in a dark room.

It seems I was laid on a bed.

「！」

Remembering the events before I lost consciousness, I hurriedly raised my body.

gachagacha

Although I tried raising my body, my hands made a sound without moving.

There was a cold sensation on my wrists.

It seems both my hands are bound behind my back.

And my feet as well.

When I somehow raised my body, what I was able to confirm was the room was approximately ten tatami mats. (*note: 15.3m²*)

The room had no windows, there was only the bed I was on and a table, as well as a chair.

It appears I've been taken captive by those men.

But what's their goal...?

The only thing I can think of is that it's connected to the Prince.

However, the only relation I have to the Prince is that he comes over to eat.

I can't think of any benefits of abducting me either...

gacha

When I was thinking about the criminal's goal, the only door in the room opened.

The ones that came through the door was a woman wearing a dress, and the well built man that abducted me. As well as a woman in a maid uniform.

I recognised the woman in the dress.

「How are you feeling?」

「Very exhilarated, thanks to you. Elina Isa Hertsmere, daughter of a duke.」

The Prince's fiancée-sama that I met at the ball.

「That's good *wa*. I invited you today to talk to you.」

Was that, an invitation?

「Aah, it's useless to escape *wa*. This place is an isolated house in the corner of the Royal Capital. Nobody will come even if you call for help you know. Besides, the shackles attached to you is a sorcery sealing magic tool. You, although you can't use sorcery, you practise something similar to sorcery right?」

As she said that, I tried to refine *ki*, but it scatters and disappears midway.

Could it be interfering with the conversion of internal energy?

After investigating the socery seal, the *ojou-sama* spoke of why I was abducted.

「I'll be frank *wa*. You, I want you to disappear from the Prince's sight.」

Pardon? What is she saying? This *ojou-sama*.

「You, you're an adventurer right? I've investigated your circumstances. That's right *wa ne*, how about Serbatos Republic? Aah, of course, I'll give you the funds for the journey *wa*.」

Really, what is this *ojou-sama* talking about *ne*?

Well, I intended to go on my journey sooner or later. However, it's yet to reach that point, and if I have to say, I don't want to go on my journey by being coerced by someone.³

Besides, to disappear from the Prince she says, I'm sure I've said that the Prince came to me on his own accord.

Well, the journey funds are quite attractive. But, I think that's different from going on a journey *ne*.

And because of that, my answer was decided.

「Even though you went through the trouble, I decline.」

To the *ojou-sama* who was waiting for my reply, I replied while expressing a smile.

The *ojou-sama* had a 'I don't understand the meaning' kind of expression, but then flew into rage with a red face.

「Y-You, with your social position as a commoner, did you not hear what I said!? Don't get carried away just because His Highness likes you a little! That's fine *wa*, I'll make you regret being so determined *wa!* Celica, take that out.」

When the *ojou-sama* instructed the maid-san (Celica-san?), the maid-san took out a small bottle from her breast pocket and handed it over to the *ojou-sama*.

「I wonder if you know what this is? *fufu*. It's your fault for not obediently doing what I say, you know?」

The *ojou-sama* laughed while displaying the small bottle containing a pink coloured liquid between my eyes.

She opened the lid with a '*kyupo*' sound.

「Hold her down and open her mouth.」

According to the *ojou-sama*'s orders, the well built man grasped my head, and forcefully opened my mouth.

The small bottle slowly approached my mouth, then the liquid within the bottle was poured into my mouth.

I tried to spit it out, but my mouth was immediately held down and I was forcefully made to swallow it.

「*Cough cough*.What did, you make me drink?」

I choked a little since I was forced to swallow it, but I'm worried about what I

was made to drink.

「fufu, you'll know soon enough *wa*.」

Just as she said those words, I immediately sensed the effects.

My strength suddenly left my body, and collapsed onto the bed with a 'plop'.

Even when I tried moving my body, I couldn't move as if I'm numbed.

「Anesthetic...?」

Although I could somewhat talk, it uses a considerable amount of strength just to talk a little.

「It's not only that you know? fufufu. I said it, right? I'll make you regret it *wa*. So that you won't be able to appear in front of His Majesty...」

A chill went down my spine when the *ojou-sama* made that smile.

「What...」

The moment I was about to ask what she planned to do, I felt an abnormality in my body.

Although it's difficult to describe what it is, I could feel a heat gradually spreading.

As if it's spreading from the centre of my body, it gradually spread out through my whole body.

「It seems to be working *ne*. Right now, your body is very hot right?」

My whole body sort of feels like it's been possessed by heat.

Hot, painful...

As if to free the heat from my body, I realized my breathing has become rough.

「What you drank was, anesthetic and..... aphrodisiac *wa*.」

Aphrodisiac...?

As if I was delirious with a fever, I couldn't collect my thoughts.

「These are items are from a noble purveyor, so the effects are guaranteed *wa*. Since I've gone through the trouble, I'll make you feel good, take it as

consideration from me *wa*. A woman that has been defiled by another man, won't be able face His Highness either right? *o~hohohohoho.*」

Another man, defile, Highness...?

What could she be saying...?

Leaving that side, hot.....painful...

「*Oh?* You don't understand what I'm saying anymore? You don't have to worry *wa*. Because I'll properly have His Highness help you. But of course, after everything has finished.」

What did the *ojou-sama* say, I can't think anymore.

The only thing that comes to mind is how to free myself from this suffering.

「It seems you've already hit your limit *wa ne*. Celica, please call the men.」

After a short while, it seems several men entered the room.

「I'll leave the rest to you *wa*. Do as you please.」

Leaving behind those words, the *ojou-sama*, the well built man, and the maid-san left the room.

The ones left behind were the men, and me.

「Even if she said do as we please, our partner is a kid like this?」

「It can't be helped since it's an order right? But this fella, even though she's like this, I've heard she's 15 years old ya know? Besides, it's also said the Prince-sama frequents her.」 Could she actually be in a terrible condition?⁴」

「If you guys aren't willing, then just watch. I'll do it even if it's a kid ya know.」

「You, you sure have a large range of interests *na*. Well, I'm also going to do it though.」

The men look down on me while talking about something.

「*Oi*, we're going to play with you from now. We'll have you forget about the Prince-sama okay.」

While one of the men said those words with a vulgar tone, he grasped my arm

and lifted me up.

The moment the man grasped my arm, electricity ran through my body.

「fua.」

My voice leaked out from my mouth.

And at the same time, I realized the heat inside my body was gathering even more.

「Oi, did ya feel it just from being touched? The noble-sama's drugs are incredible na.」

The man got excited and started touching my body.

Each time he does it, my voice leaks out from my mouth as if I'm releasing the confined heat, the remaining heat accumulated inside my body.⁵

「Though she looks like a child, she has a body of a woman huh.」

No matter what the man said or did, I could only breath roughly as if I'm being tossed around by the heat confined within my body.

It seems I'll go mad at this rate.

「It's 'bout time I touch you directly huh.」

Simultaneously with that voice, the sound of my clothes being teared resounded.

Along with that sound, I understood what was going on.

Although it was an instant, I felt a chill in my body.

「N.....no, noo...」

I somehow squeezed out a voice, and slightly shook my head to show my refusal.

After understanding what was being done to me, my tears involuntarily flowed out.

However, my body that's been numbed with anesthetic couldn't move, in addition, my head doesn't function well because of the aphrodisiac.

「He he he, even if you say no, we've only been ordered after all. If you want to

blame, then blame that *ojou-sama* okay?」

The men didn't plan on stopping, and it wasn't possible to escape with my own power. When I understood that, my heart was painted over with fear.

「No, stop it...」

My words of refusal weren't effective, the man's hand reached out towards me.

「No..... NOOOOOO!」

The moment I thought I was about to be touched, a heat different from the heat up until now overflowed from within me.

「What is that!?」

'That heat' turned into power, and the man who tried touching me was blown away.

The man who was blown away, collided against the wall with a large sound, then stopped moving.

「This kid! What the hell did you do!?」

The remaining men stirred up.

「NO, NO, NO, NO...」

In order to pin me down, one of them leaped at me.

「NO, NO , NO, NO...」

The man who leaped at me also, just like the man earlier, was blown away and stopped moving.

My body's heat became even stronger.

「Stay away... STAY AWAAAY!」

I myself didn't understand what was happening either.

By the time I noticed, the men had collapsed on the floor, and a wind violently blew within the room like a storm.

「SAKURA! ARE YOU OKAY!/?」

I heard the Prince's voice.

「SAKURA!」

A second time.

When I looked in the direction of the voice, the Prince was stretching his hand while being blocked by the wind.

「Don't do that, Your Highness! It's dangerous!」

The one who stopped the Prince was, Len-san...?

「But Sakura is...!」

What could they be saying?

What's, happening to me?

「Her sorcery is running wild! It's dangerous to approach!」

Sorcery? Running wild? I don't understand the meaning.

The Prince and Len-san said something again.

However, as if my batteries ran out, I lost consciousness.

Lines

1. 「サクラ・フジノだな。大人しくしてもらおうか」
2. 疑問が湧きますが、とにかくこの場を何とか切り抜けないといけません。
3. 身体つきは貧相な子供で「誰が子供で絶壁ですか！その目は節穴ですか！？ちゃんとあります！」
4. その男の子は気絶しているのでしょうか？先程から身動きをしません。
5. ですが、それはまだ先の事で、ついでにいえば誰かに強制されてする旅ではありません。
6. 実は凄い具合がいいんじゃねえのか？」
7. そのたびにわたしの口からはこもった熱を逃がすように声が漏れ、それ以上の熱が身体の中に溜まっています。

Chapter 55 ~ Rescue

~things to know~

ha! ~ kind of like 'yes sir' that soldiers/knights say -**doushi** ~ guidance teacher/tutor/advisor

Chapter 55 – *(highlight)*

~

~

「Damn it, will we make it...!?」¹

I'm currently running through the Royal Capital in the morning.

The ones following me are Len-*doushi* and group of around 10 knights.

Furthermore, two platoons have been planned to follow later.

As we ran through the main street, the citizens hurriedly made way.

The origin of this event started when a single knight came rushing in.

「Your Highness Prince Sedrim! There's an urgent matter!」

Having just finished breakfast, an Imperial Guard came rushing to my side.

「What happened? What's urgent?」

Not my father or my older brother, but urgent an urgent matter for me?

Also, this knight's flustered appearance is...?

「Ha! A knight rushed into our guardroom..... uh, he said that His Highness' fiancée-dono was kidnapped.」

My fiancée he says? I don't have that sort of person but...

「What do you mean? Tell me in detail.」

At any rate, I'll try listening to his story.

「Ha! According to the knight, this morning, he saw Your Highness' fiancée-dono pushed into a carriage on a road connecting to the main street.」

Fiancée, I don't understand what that means, but it seems it'll be faster to directly ask that knight.

「I'll meet that knight. Where is he?」

Being guided by that Imperial Guard, we headed towards that knight's location.

According to that knight's story, since today was his day off, when he drank until morning and was heading home, he witnessed that scene by chance.

The time was around 3-1 koku, he entered a side street from the main street to do his business, and on the other side, it seemed he saw my 'fiancée' being brought into a carriage by a large amount of men.

It seems the first thing that knight did when he saw that, was hide himself and pursued after that carriage.

Although he lost sight midway, he searched for a short while, and as a result, he discovered the carriage at an isolated house in a corner of the Royal Capital, it appears he rushed to the Royal Castle for the sake of letting me know.

I understood up until there, but I don't know who's pretending to be my fiancée.

When I enquired about it, he said it was a young girl with a child-like appearance, and long black hair.

It's about Sakura!?

The moment I realized that, I got that knight up to his feet, confirmed the location on a map and immediately pulled out a horse in order to depart.

I immediately caught the knights that were working within the area, *Len-doushi* was looking for me by chance so I also had him come along, then rode horses to that isolated house.

What do they plan on kidnapping Sakura for?

I couldn't understand. Certainly, part of her relationship with me were talked about in rumors but...

Is it simply a kidnapping?

Even when I tried thinking about it, I couldn't come up with an answer.

Although Sakura seems indifferent to her own appearance, if you judge it from a third person's perspective, she has an appearance of what you'd call a *bishoujo*. As well as her frequently changing expressions. Especially that limp smile that gives off an charming feeling that can't be described².

It would be good if she wasn't kidnapped a bad group that has an indecent objective but...

Just as we arrived at the isolated house, a '*DOON!*' sound resounded from within.

I hurried anyway and went towards the room that made that sound.

A voice was calling me from behind, but there was no way I could've heard it.³

I opened that door, what was before my eyes was..... wind raging inside the room.

When I look inside, four men were collapsed in the corner of the room.

Although they weren't moving, they seem to be alive.

Leaving that side..... at the centre of the raging winds was Sakura.

The moment I saw Sakura, my heart was awfully disordered.

Sakura's had an appearance with shackles attached to her hands and feet and her clothes teared, her eyes flowing with tears was empty as if it reflected nothing.⁴

Her lips were slightly moving, it seems she's muttering something, but the wind was interfering so it couldn't be heard.

Guessing from the movements of her lips, it looks like she's repeating the word

「no」。

「SAKURA! ARE YOU OKAY?」

My voice involuntarily came out.

There's no way she's okay. Although I knew that, I couldn't find any other words to say.

As if Sakura didn't notice me, she doesn't change where she's looking at.

「SAKURA!」

Those empty eyes turned in my direction after calling out a second time.

I unintentionally reached out my hand towards those eyes, but I was blocked by the wind and couldn't move.

「Don't do that, Your Highness! It's dangerous!」

Len-doushi, who caught up to me, restrained me from advancing.

「But Sakura is...!」

At this rate..... Sakura will break!

Quickly, if I don't go to her side!

「Her sorcery is running wild! It's dangerous to approach!」

Sorcery is running wild he says? Impossible! Sakura shouldn't be able to use sorcery.

The moment I tried to somehow approach Sakura, Sakura's body suddenly collapsed like a puppet with its strings cut.

Together with that, the wind that was violently blowing in the room rapidly stopped.

「SAKURA!」

With the wind that was blocking me disappearing, I hurriedly rushed over to Sakura.

I confirmed the collapsed Sakura's breathing, the moment I discovered she had only lost consciousness, my whole body seemed to have lost its strength.

Immediately recalling the figure of Sakura, I wrapped up Sakura with something that looked like a mantle from another person then gently embraced her.

After that, I ordered the knights that rushed into the room to capture the collapsed men, placed Sakura in a carriage then proceeded to the Royal Castle.

I carried Sakura to a guest room and decided to entrust Chiffon to take care her.

It seems the carriage that the knight who rushed in saw had already disappeared.

I'll have no choice but to squeeze it out from the captured men regarding this.

Having injured Sakura, I'll have you regret it...!

Two days after that, Sakura woke up and I got in touch with her.

Lines

1. 「くそっ、間にあえよ…！」
2. 特にあの、ふにやりとした笑顔は何とも言えない愛らしさを感じる。
3. 後ろから私を呼ぶ声がしたが、聞いてなどいられるわけがない。
4. サクラの姿は、手足に枷を嵌められて服を切り裂かれ、涙を流すその瞳は何も映していないように虚ろだった。

Chapter 56 ~ Afterwards

Chapter 56 – Afterwards

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「Sakura-sama! You've woken up!? Thank goodness...」

When I looked around the room with my head in a daze, Chiffon-san, who just entered the room, opened her eyes in surprise for an instant, then immediately rushed over to my side.

「Chiffon-san...? Huh? I...?」

I wonder why Chiffon-san is here? If Chiffon-san is here, that means, this place is the castle?

Why am I here...?

If I remember correctly, I went jogging, then got abducted by some weird men...

「*tsu tsu tsu*」(*note: sound of sucking in air(?)*, not sure)

My body trembled after I remembered.

Right, that *ojou-sama* made me drink that drug...

「Sakura-sama? Are you feeling unwell?」

I got startled by Chiffon-san's concerned voice and looked up.

That's not good, I've made them worry.

I'm okay. Nothing... should've been done.

Even when I try to recall the events of that time, as if a haze appeared after I drank that drug, I couldn't remember it clearly.

However, I believe the worst case scenario didn't happen.

「No, I'm okay. Leaving that aside, why am I in the castle?」

Although I feel nauseated when I try to remember, I somehow held it back and tried asking.

「Sakura-sama..... do you not remember? Sakura-sama hasn't woken up in two days you know?」

Two days...? Was I sleeping for two days?

「Sakura-sama, are you not hungry? Since you were sleeping this entire time, it would be better to eat something *ne*. Let me bring something, even if it's soup.」

Without saying anything further, Chiffon-san left the room.

I somewhat understand that I'm being immensely looked after.

After my head cleared a little, I looked around the room once again.

.....I've seen this several times, the castle's guestroom.

As for my clothing..... it's a thin nightgown¹. I wonder if Chiffon-san changed my clothes?

While I was somewhat thinking of such things, Chiffon-san returned.

「Sakura-sama, please drink this slowly.」

I sat down by the edge of the bed and was handed a bowl filled with soup and a spoon.

The bowl had no garnishes, a potage.

Did she take into consideration to give me something to eat that wouldn't surprise my stomach after not eating for two days?²

I slowly put the spoon in my mouth while thinking about that.

「Thank you for the meal.」

After I slowly finishing the potage, Chiffon-san took the bowl from me and smiled as if she was relieved.

「And so, *um*, Chiffon-san. I—「SAKURA!」」

The moment I tried asking why I was here, the door vigorously opened and

Prince Sedrim entered.

「Prince...?」

When the Prince saw that I was awake, he expressed a relieved expression and walked towards me.

「Thank goodness you're safe...!」

And then he tightly embraced me.

Although it seemed the Prince said also something else, my mind was filled with something else.

Being touched by a man.

As soon my mind was filled with that, the next thing that came to mind was..... fear.

I remembered those men's hands and that I couldn't move.

My body started trembling and tears swelled up in my eyes.

「Sakura...?」

Whether he noticed my trembling, the Prince unwrapped his arms that were embracing me, then looked into my face.

「No..... stay away.... No...」

Those words leaked out from my trembling lips, furthermore, my tears started flowing.

「Your Highness! Please separate from Sakura-sama!」

Chiffon-san's, voice.

And at the same time, I was gently wrapped up in something soft.

「Sakura-sama, you're safe now. Because I'm here for you!³」

Together with her voice, my hair was gently stroked.

Although my trembling body gradually calmed down, my tears didn't stop.

While I buried my face in Chiffon-san's chest, I somehow held back my tears.

「Sakura...」

When I somewhat calmed down, the Prince's voice and his stretched out hand was reflected in my eyes.

I clung onto Chiffon-san as my body trembled in surprise.

The Prince seemed uneasy after losing the place he was extending his hand to.

「Your Highness. Please do not touch Sakura-sama.」

As if Chiffon-san was protecting me, she hugged me tightly.

「Sorry...」

I heard a muttered voice from the Prince.

「I apologize , I was busy with something. Once you've calmed down, could I ask for your story?」

When I raised my head towards a new voice, the King and Len-san, as well as the Prime Minister and the Squad Captain was here.

「But, Sakura-sama is.... She's still terribly frightened right now. And yet, to have that talk, isn't that too harsh?⁴」

Chiffon-san objected while she increased the power in her arms that were hugging me.

「I understand that, but it's also necessary for us to investigate immediately. According to Len-san's story, it seems Sakura's sorcery went on a rampage. It was on a considerably large scale as well. We need to find a way to deal with that. Besides that, it's also regarding the person who abducted Sakura.」

「.....I understand.」

Chiffon-san nodded her head with an unwilling feeling from the King's instructions.

「Well then, can you tell us what you encountered?」

Urged by the King, I spoke of the events of when I was abducted bit by bit while tightly hugging onto Chiffon-san.

About being surrounded by men when I was returning from my jog and fainting, about meeting that *ojou-sama* when I woke up in that dim room, and then the words of the *ojou-sama*. After that, drinking that drug...

I spoke about what I remembered with a detached tone.

Maybe it was it thanks to me doing my best to state only the truth so I wasn't thinking about anything else, my heart wasn't too disturbed.⁵

Should I say it was fortunate? Chiffon-san testified that the worse didn't happen.⁶

.....Chiffon-san, how did you check?

「So it's that woman...!」

The Prince tightly grasped his hands when he finished hearing my story, and spitted out those words.

「I've heard about that suspicious rumour so far but... Interrogate her immediately no matter what!」⁷

「Sedrim! Calm down. Our talk still hasn't ended yet.」

The King chided the Prince who seemed to want to immediately fly out.

Although the Prince appeared dissatisfied, he didn't seem to disobey.

「And so, Sakura-san. At the time we rushed to that room, Sakura-san's sorcery was running wild, but.... Do you not remember it?」

Taking the place of the King, Len-san asked a question this time.

「No, I don't remember.... The events after I drank the drug, is only vague...」

「Is that so. Perhaps that can't be helped. Judging from appearance, that drug they made you drink at that time, they gave you several times more than you'd normally have. That drug..... normally, around several drops of it dripped in a drink will have plenty of effects.」

There's also a possibility of it disabling a person for life if it's handled poorly, that terrifying thing was told to me.

I became frightened after feeling that *ojou-sama*'s malice once again⁸

「Which means..... if you think about it, falling unconscious was expected.」

「Please wait a moment. Sakura-sama hasn't used sorcery up until now right? But despite that, can sorcery be used unconsciously?」⁹

That was Chiffon-san. A most reasonable question *ne*.

「Normally, it's not possible. However, I believe it's possible if it's Sakura-san. As for the reason, it concerns the basis of sorcery, in order to use sorcery, the energy within your own body, which could be called the source of mana, needs to be recognized before you can begin. Although that energy converts into mana to use sorcery, what Sakura-san calls『*ki*』, can also be used to do that. Mana and *ki*, I've heard they both trace back to the same energy. And Sakura's previous existence was *Lyle-shi*. In other words, it's theoretically possible to use sorcery.」

Len-san calmly spoke his analysis.

However, what interrupted that was Chiffon-san's voice.

「Please wait a moment! Sakura-sama's previous existence you say.... This is the first time I've heard such a thing!」

Aah, every person here knows other than Chiffon-san...

「We'll postpone that matter. Len, continue speaking.」

Since it was the King's orders, it seems Chiffon-san has no choice but to be silent.

「Yes. The problem is even though Sakura-san couldn't use sorcery until now, why could she suddenly use it, is the question. Although it's just a guess from here on.... I believe it's the result of the sorcery sealing magic tool. A sorcery sealing magic tool isn't something that strictly seals mana. Just like I explained earlier, a sorcery seal has an effect of obstructing the conversion of the source of mana into mana. If I'm to further simplify it, if we assume the typical efficiency of converting the source of mana into mana is 10, in the situation where a sorcery sealing magic tool is used, the efficiency will be less than 1. As a result of that, the mana necessary to use sorcery will be insufficient, and you'll lose the ability to use sorcery. Of course, according to that, sorcery can be invoked if you increase the amount of mana, but because if it's a common magician, they'll unconsciously use only the necessary amount for that sorcery and won't be able to utilize the mana, so the ability to use sorcery is essentially lost.¹⁰」

Houhou, there wasn't this sort of magic tool 25 years ago so this is my first time knowing about it.

Rather, is this a classified matter?

Is it okay to talk about it this easily?

In a place outside of those sorts worries I had, Len-san continued his lecture.

「And perhaps, I believe the smallest amount of magic source Sakura-san can use is too large. When a magician converts mana source into mana, they use a thing that's sort of like a passageway to convert it. I believe Sakura-san's mana source is too large in contrast to that passageway. Could it be as a result of that, it can't be converted into mana? I don't know about『ki』but.... At the very least, Sakura-san has several typical magician's worth of mana as far as I can sense. With the sorcery sealing magic tool, your mana source finally became a size that could be converted, is what I think to be the most logical.」

Eh? Perhaps if I wear a sorcery sealing magic tool, I'll be able to use sorcery?

I'm slightly anticipating it.

「Sakura-san, can you use sorcery right now?」

I'm slightly confused at how this talk went in this direction, but I'll try it out for now.

「.....What I desire is a small flame.」

I tried using basic sorcery, but as expected, it didn't invoke.

Seeing that, Len-san took out something from this breast pocket.

That was..... handcuffs...

「I'm sorry. Although it's unpleasant, could I have you wear it?」

I understand what he wants to say.

But that's..., something that remind me of the events of that time.

「Sakura-sama...」

Chiffon-san's directed her concerned voice towards me who wasn't moving.

I muttered 「it's okay」 in my mind several times, then opened my mouth.

「Chiffon-san, please.」

The reason why I didn't ask Len-san was..... as expected, it's because I'm

scared to touch him.

If he doesn't approach and he's at a fixed distance, I don't think about it but...

With a '*gachari*' sound, the handcuffs were attached to my arm.

「Well then..... will you be okay?」

I returned a nod at Len-san's words, then attempted sorcery once again.

「What I desire is a small flame.」

In an instant, '*bo*', a small flame lit up slightly above my fingertip.

「「*Ooh.*」」

The people in the room raised a surprised voice.

.....Because I'm handcuffed in my current state, I wasn't in a good condition.¹¹

Although I can use sorcery thanks to the sorcery sealing magic tool, I won't be able to use *qigong*.

I tried it, but as expected, it seems I can't use *qigong*.

If it's the explanation Len-san gave earlier, it seems I might be able to use it if I knead even more *ki*, but... I'll probably collapse if I do that. Even if it works, there's no point if I'm tired out and can't move...

Besides, even if I can use sorcery, I don't want to do something like wearing a handcuff.

When I conveyed that, Len-san said it was all right.

「If that's the case, it's fine if we make a different object right? Let me see... would a bracelet or ring, or things like a necklace be okay? *Aah*, I think it would be fine if we restrict it so only the mana conversion effect is applied. I think it can be prepared in three days.」

Although he said it was very easy, according to Len-san, 「since I understand the theory, all that's left is to make it」. No, he's certainly right but... I believe it's not as easy as you say you know?

It appears my former worthless pupil seems to have completely grown during these 25 years.

When I asked why the royal court mage, Len-san, would prepare something like that, 「because it was the Prince's fault that you were troubled.」, is what he said¹². If that's the case, I'll accept it without reservation.

Oh? I have a feeling most of my troubles are related to the Prince...

「Come to think of it, why am I in the castle?」

After our general talk had finished, I tried asking a question I had thought of after I slightly calmed down.

A reply was quickly returned.

「One of the knights saw the place where Sakura was taken to *na*. He came and reported it to me. Because of that, I brought along the Chivalric Order in order to rescue you but... Sakura had fainted after we got there so I brought you to the castle.」

Because he'll have a peace of mind since it's the castle, so he says.

Although I don't quite remember it, did I faint? In addition, I also slept for two days..... was it the result of the drug?

Len-san gave me an answer to those questions.

「I think it's because you overused your mana. It seems at the time Sakura-san's sorcery went on a rampage, you were mostly unconscious. That's quite a good thing since your sorcery went on a rampage. Aah, regarding the drug, you were detoxified after you arrived here. Since we understood what kind of drug was used on you.」

A—, so it was caused by exhausting my mana huh. It might've been quite dangerous sleeping for two days.

Though I said it lightly, normally, even if you exhausted your mana, you would be able to recover in around a few hours ~ one day. It's said it's because of a limiter that works unconsciously¹³. However, in that situation where I was hardly conscious and running wild, my mana will be used while disregarding the limiter. If it goes badly, it might also effect one's life. Should I say it was a blessing in disguise that I fainted before that happened?

「Now then..., that duke's household needs to be executed *na*.」

Everyone was surprised at the King's sudden statement.

King, you have an evil smile you know?

「But father. Even if you say execute, to give a punishment for the this time's incident is.... It's certain that they're guilty of this incident, but the victim, Sakura, is a commoner. It's frustrating but, we cannot do that sort of heavy punishment.」

Aah, that ojou-sama is from a duke's family and I'm just a commoner *ne*. I'm sure I can't expect anything significant.

「*fun*, I understand that much. It's not just this time's incident. It also includes their deeds up until now. Hey, Len. Isn't that right?」

-grin-, while smiling, the King looked at Len-san.

Like I said, that's an evil smile.

「Yes. There were four similar incidents that have happened in the past as far as we've investigated. Several other somewhat unpardonable deeds were also discovered. The parent, the Duke-sama, has also accepted bribes from other nobles, unjustly increased the tax rate on their territory, furthermore, they're growing prohibited drugs in their territory. Well, there seems to be various other things besides those though.」

While showing a wry smile, Len-san read out the documents that he pulled out from his breast pocket.

That *ojou-sama*, does she do these sorts of things every time? A woman's jealousy is scary *ne*... Also that chubby old man as well, so he was a bad person just like he appeared huh.

No, leaving that aside, why does Len-san know about those sorts of things? Rather, when did he investigate it?

「I've been investigating that duke's household since long ago. I've been performing various things behind the scenes you see.」

He explained while looking in my direction.

Eh? How did he understand what I was thinking?

「It's written on your face, you know.」

Saying that, Len-san made a wry smile once more.

Oh? Am I that easy to understand...?

「Anyway, Sakura still isn't in her usual condition right? You should take your time and rest until you're better.」

Those were the words of the Prince.

U~n, although you can say I can walk a little, I'm slightly unsteady.

Since he insisted, I decided to be under their care at least until I could walk properly

Although I said that, it didn't take very much time, I could steady walk on my feet by the afternoon.

Since I've recovered up til here, I think I'll be fine after this.

Although I was detained by Chiffon-san when I tried to return home, there are circumstances where I can't be away from home for such a long time.

As for the circumstances..... it's the refrigerator.

It's already been two and a half days since I've returned home. Although I think it's still okay, it would be dangerous if I neglected the ingredients any further.

If it wasn't for that, I would've considered being in their care for a bit longer though.... Men are still scary.

For that sort of reason, I returned to my house after two and a half days.

By the way, the ingredients were safe.

Lines

1. 私の服装は……薄手の夜着です。
2. 2日ぶりに口にするものに、胃が驚かない様に気を使ってくれたのでしょうか？
3. 私がついていますから！
4. 「しかしサクラ様は…。今も酷く怯えています。なのに話をしろ、というのは酷じゃないでしょうか？」
5. 極力、事実のみを述べることで何も考えないようにいたおかげか、それほど心は乱れませんでした。
6. 幸い、と言っていいのでしょうか。シフォンさんの証言で最悪の事はなかった、ということです。
7. 「今まで怪しげな噂は聞いたことがあったが…。すぐにでも問い合わせてやる！」
8. 改めてお嬢様の悪意を感じ、恐ろしくなります。
9. それなのに、無意識で魔術を使えるものなのですか？」
10. もちろん、その分魔力を増やしてやれば魔術は発動しますが、通常の魔術師だと無意識でその魔術に必要な分しか魔力を使用しませんので、実質は魔術が使えなくなるのです」
11. ……手枷を嵌められた状態なので様になりませんが。
12. 宮廷魔導師であるレンさんが、どうしてそんなものを用意してくれるのでかというと、「王子のせいで迷惑をかけたから」だそうです。
13. これは無意識にリミッターが働いているからだと言われます。

Chapter 57 ~ A Commission After A Long Absence

Chapter 57 –

(highlight)

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Around ten days have passed since I've returned from the castle.

I rehabilitated during that time, or rather, I led a very ordinary everyday life.

Well, I haven't received any commissions though *ne*. Since the guild has nothing but men after all...

By the way, although the Prince didn't come over on the day I returned, he came over to eat just like usual after the next days.

Rather than just like usual, he would randomly approach me, then it reached a point where he'd touch me but...

In the beginning, I would tremble from just being approached and completely stiffen up when I was touched, but thanks to the Prince's persistent skinship (?), things like stiffening up stopped happening.

According to the Prince, it was 「rehabilitation」 but.... I wonder in what way was it rehabilitation by touching a woman who's crying while trembling...?

Well, my androphobia became considerably better as a result you know? Even if I'm touched, I only tremble for a moment... I have feeling I'm not fully satisfied¹.

Well, can androphobia improve in such a short period?

Was what I thought but, 「It's because it hasn't been long since it started so it's possible to improve in a short period. When time passes and it becomes a habit, it'll be harder to cure you see.」 was Len-san's words. So I've actually improved *ne*.

By the way, it seems the treatment of that chubby old duke-sama and the *ojou-sama* have been handed down.

The chubby old man will be fined, his inheritance handed over, and be retired. It seems the *ojou-sama* has been prohibited from approaching the Royal Capital. Could I be the only one who thought ‘those were unexpectedly light punishments *na*’?

Ah, I also received Len-san’s homemade magic tool. It was a necklace, since a bracelet would get in the way of my protectors.

I tried it, and it seems I’m able to use both sorcery and *qigong*.

I practiced sorcery in my free time after that. Since I only had the ‘knowledge’ *ne*.

Thanks to that, I reached a point where I could roughly use the sorcery I could use in my previous life. I can also use Aria Destruction if it’s just intermediate sorcery.² *Ahem*.

Well, for that reason, I think it’s about time to restart my adventurer occupation.

I also need to earn my living expenses *ne*.

So because of that, I’ve come to the Adventurers’ Guild.

It’s somewhat been a long time. The last time I came was..... to report the escort commission, was it more than half a month ago? It’s been quite a considerable period.

And so, the commission I received for the first time in a while, was a D rank Goblin subjugation..... was what it should’ve been but...

Why is there’s a dragon in front of me?

There wasn’t anything particularly unusual about contents of the commission, because Goblins have settled down in a location around half a day on foot from the Royal Capital, the contents were to defeat them.

I took that commission first thing in the morning, got on a carriage that was heading in the same direction for two hours, and arrived at a village where the commission was at just before noon.

I talked to the village mayor at once(omitting the usual exchange), then immediately had them guide me to the location where the Goblins were discovered.

From the story I've heard, the number of Goblins were around 10, so I should be able to return to the Royal Capital by the end of today if things go smoothly. Yes, it went smoothly. Until arrived there...³

I was led to the location where the Goblins were discovered, it was an open location inside a forest so to say..... in other words, it was a nest.

No, that wasn't the problem though...

The problem was there wasn't a single Goblin there. Accurately speaking, there wasn't any 'living Goblins'.

Goblin-like corpses and bloodstains were scattered everywhere

And above all..... a dragon remained at the centre of the nest.

I'm sure the Goblins here were killed by this dragon.

No no, leaving such things aside. Why's there a dragon in this sort of place...?

Speaking of dragons, even the lower grade types like Wyverns and Drakes are equivalent to S rank.

Dragon types are divided into, the ancient species; which are Ancient Dragons that are at the top, the superior species; which are Noble Dragons, the medium species; which are Lesser Dragons, and then the lower species; which are Hydras, Wyverns, and Drakes.

The one in front of me is, judging from its shape, a Lesser Dragon.

The habitat of a Lesser Dragon should in the frontier's mountain range. It shouldn't be in this sort of place.

「GURUAAAAAAaaaaa!!」

When I got surprised at the sudden roar that echoed and looked at the dragon, its fiery and shining eyes locked onto my direction. I should've escaped instead of being surprised that there was a dragon...!

When I looked, the person who had guided me had already disappeared. I believe that was a good decision.

No, more importantly, if I don't think of a way to escape right now...

「FUHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA! A black haired girl huh? How unusual *na*! Although I don't know why you're in this sort of place, how about I make you my subordinate?⁴」

I suddenly heard a man's voice inside the forest which shouldn't have had anyone in it.

「I'm here!」

A person's figure could be seen on the back of the dragon.

That's not possible. The intelligence of a Lesser Dragon is the same as an ordinary beast with ferocious personality on top of it. For a person to get on the back of that dragon, is an unbelievable scene. If it was an Ancient Dragon or a Noble Dragon that's more intelligent than a person, then I wouldn't know but...⁵

「I like that expression, little girl! Do you want to know why I'm accompanied by a dragon!? Fine then, I'll tell you! I'm the man who's going to become the Demon King! It's a Subordination Magic that I developed! However, this sorcery has a flaw, it's only effective against an opponent that has low intelligence. However, I, a genius, thought of this. High combat strength and low intelligence, it would be good if I subdued a Lesser Dragon! And so, by possessing that overwhelming combat strength, I can subdue others!! Even though I wanted these Goblins as subordinates at the beginning, they couldn't understand my words and it turned out like this you see.」

What? Demon King? *Aah*, it's that *ne*. That thing you come across at around 14 years old that's like a disease. Moreover, Subordination Magic he says? No, this Lesser Dragon seems to be somehow doing what he says, so it might be the

truth.⁶

However, he's good at continuously chattering even when I didn't ask. Could he be a person who has a strong desire to be in the spotlight?

「So, how about it? Little girl. I'll give you the honour as my number 2 manservant, okay?」

No no, why did this happen?

I only came to exterminate Goblins you know?

But despite that, what's this about a dragon or Demon King, and finally, a manservant?

Even if it's a rapid development, isn't this going too far!?

「Now! How..... hey! Don't suddenly move like that!!」

I suddenly heard a '*dosu dosu*' sound, and before I knew it, in front of my eyes was..... a dragon's tail.

Without time to even think 'eh?', my body was blown away by the dragon's tail.

I can't be, was his speech earlier for the sake of putting me off guard!? To put me off guard and surprise attack me, as expected of something a self proclaimed Demon King would do! In other words..... a coward!!

Surprisingly, I was calmly thinking of those sorts of things while being blown away. I didn't expect that in this sort of situation though.⁷

My body was launched nearly twenty meters away, and landed (?) while bouncing.

「Listen to what I say! Is there anyone that starts running when a person is in the middle of speaking?!? I could've bitten my tongue!」

The Demon King (temporary) was making a fuss about something. I don't understand what that something was though.

No, rather than 'I don't understand', wouldn't 'I can't hear' be correct?

As expected of dragons that are called the strongest. That blow just now, just

from what I'm aware of, I think my arms and ribs have been fractured, and I fear there's damage to my internal organs too. Merely a single blow and I'm on the verge of death. *Oh...?* Am I, going to die in this sort of place...? *Aah*, in the end, I wanted to eat my mother's curry...

My consciousness broke off right after that.

Lines

1. なにか釈然としないものを感じます。
2. 中級魔術までなら詠唱破棄も出来るようになりましたよ。えへん。
3. ええ、順調だったのです。そこに着くまでは...。
4. なぜこのような所にいるのかは知らんが俺の部下にしてやってもよいぞ？」
5. これが人以上の知能を持ったエンシェントドラゴンやノーブルドラゴンなら、まだわからないでもないのですが...。
6. いや、これは曲がりなりにもレッサードラゴンが言うことを聞いているようですし、本当かもしれません。
7. そんな状況ではないはず、なんですが。

Chapter 58 ~ God-sama?

~things~

ja ~ old man version of the ojou-sama's 'wa' (maybe..)

kantoui (貫頭衣) ~ a simple piece of clothing with a hole in the middle for the head



not sure if this is right

Chapter 58 –

(highlight)

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~

「.....ke.....p.up.」

My body shook as if it was swaying. I wonder what happened to me?

「It's about time, you wake up!」

「fue!?」

A loud voice suddenly echoed, and I unintentionally let out a stupid cry.

「You finally woke up? Good grief, it takes time and effort.」

When I opened my eyes, I was in a pitch black space that extended out.

And in before my eyes was, wearing a white *kantoui*, a white haired..... old man?

「This place is...? And you are...?」

I should've been in a forest just now. Then I met a self-proclaimed Demon King, and a dragon's tail...

Which means, this is the netherworld?

「Though this place looks similar, it's different. I am what you people refer to as, 『God』ja.」

Eh? Different? *Eh?* What? God? No, his head seems bright?¹

「What a rude fellow *ja na*. It not 'God'. It's『God-sama』ja.」

Ha? God-sama? Following that self-proclaimed Demon King, this time it's God-sama?

「I'll say this, but I'm not self-proclaimed you know. A genuine 『God-sama』ja.」

Eh? How? Do you understand what I'm thinking?

「Didn't I say it? It's no problem for 『God』ja. This place is the boundary between the world you were in earlier, and what you people refer to as the netherworld. I brought you to this place *ja*.」

Uhh, assuming that this old man is God-sama, and assuming that this place is that boundary, why was I brought to such a place?

「Calm down. I will explain that from now. Firstly, the reason you were brought

to here was *ja*..... it was originally a mistake *ja*.」

Pardon? A mistake you say... what was the mistake?

「Everything *ja*. Even the death of Lyle in your previous life, transmigrating and coming to this world as well, everything was a mistake *ja*.」

Haa!? Even dying in my previous life was a mistake? Me coming to this world was also a mistake? What's going on? I completely don't understand you know!?

「Ah~, properly speaking, Lyle doesn't die at that place, it was planned to live another 30 years *ja*..... but I made a bit of a blunder. Well, since I thought it was my fault, I had you immediately transmigrate but...」

Ha? A blunder you say, what sort of blunder was it!? Did I die that easily!? And to use transmigration as an apology...²

「No no, that sort of blunder is something that rarely occurs³. Properly speaking, it's possible *ja*. Well, because of that, I had you transmigrated *ja*. You coming to this world as well, it's the result of your soul being originally from this world *ja*. Your soul and this world attracted each other and the space connected up *ja*. Perhaps it was the result of rushing your transmigration, the memory of your previous life also remained, as a result, it might have made it easier to connect to this world.」

.....Well then, both me getting killed in my previous life, and coming to this world, was it entirely God-sama's (temporary) fault...?

「It's not (temporary), I said I was a genuine God *ja*⁴. Well, in other words, that's how it is *ja*. Well, I'm sorry.」

AS IF YOU CAN END THAT WITH A SORRYYYYY!!! A SELF PROCLAIMED GOD-SAMA(laugh) IS PLENTY FOR YOUEEEEEE!!!

「That's harsh. Even though I apologized this way. Well, let's put that aside, and so.」

Nononono, that's not something to put aside. It's important!

「Well, hear me out. Therefore, *ja*. Since this is a good chance *ja*, I thought I would do something specially for you. Well, it's fine to think of it as an apology.」

No, I don't care about that at all, so please return me to my original world. Since I'd prefer that a lot more.

「Aah, that's impossible *ja*.」

Eh? Impossible you say, why is it? You, you're a self-proclaimed God-sama(laugh) right? Why is it impossible?

「Like I said, that's wrong.... I said it earlier right?⁵ Your soul and this world are attracted to each other. Even if you were to return to your original world, the same thing will happen again you know? Well in the first place, it's not possible to go from this world to that one *ja*.」

Why is that? Didn't I go to that world by transmigrating? Besides, I came through that hole and arrived here... Couldn't I follow that hole in reverse and return?

「It's not something that simple *ja*. You, when you came in this world, you 'came by falling' right? The world you were in is ranked higher than this world *ja*. In other words, although it's possible to 'descend', it's not possible to 'ascend' *ja*. It's a one-way passage *ja*. Even the time of your transmigration, it was quite unnatural you know? It's somewhat possible if it's just the soul, but it's impossible to bring along a body *ja*.」

Then, it's that huh? I'll have to spend my whole life in this world?

「Well, simply speaking, that's how it is *ja na*.」

.....This damned self-proclaimed God-sama(laugh), can you say that so easily...?⁶ Properly speaking, weren't you the cause of this!? Since that's the case, do something even if you have to force it! I have both family and friends over there! This isn't something to give up so easily on you know!!

「That's why I said I'll do something for you as an apology you know? But of course, other than returning you to that world *ja*.」

Like. I. Said! Didn't I say I don't have any desires other than that!?!

「Come on, if you don't say it quickly, there won't be time you know?」

Haa, haa.... Eh? Time?

「You were about to die right? Thanks to you being on the verge of death, I was able to just draw out your soul in this way *ja*. Aah, your body is being regenerated, so you should be recovered shortly. You could say this place's time limit is until you recover your consciousness *ja*. Since the regeneration of your body has completed, your consciousness should recover very soon *ja*.」

Eh? Ah, now that you mention it, the dragon... Eh? Recovery you say?..... uhh..... umm, thank you, very much...?

「Don't worry about this much. Leaving that aside, if you don't quickly decide on a wish, I'll decide for you, okay?」

Eh? No, please wait a moment? Even if you say that.... Uhh, umm.

At that moment, I suddenly felt my body being pulled.

「*fumu*, it seems we're out of time? Well, I've finished conveying everything that needed to be conveyed. And so, regarding your wish *ja*.... You have plenty of physical strength, you can use sorcery as well and you have plenty of mana.... Besides that..... that's right *ja*, eternal youth, how about that? That's an everlasting dream for women right?」

Ha? Eternal youth...? Then perhaps....

「You'll retain the youth of your current appearance until you die *ja*. Aren't you glad?」

I'll stay the same until I die, you say.... Please wait a moment! I didn't wish for that sort of thing..... *ah*, you just laughed, right? You understood what I said, right?!?⁷ Please cancel it! Right now!

「*Ho ho ho*. Now, what do you mean? Wouldn't you be cute this way?⁸ As a bonus, I'll also bestow a blessing on your weapon. Look, it's about time *ja*. The next time we'll meet will be when you've died perhaps? Well then.⁹」

WAAAAIT!!! WHAT BLESSING!? ISN'T IT A CURSEEEEEEE!?! REMOVE ITTTTTT!!!!!

「*Ho ho ho ho...*」

DON DON

「GUGYAAAAAOOOOOOOO！」

.....*Oh?* Until now, I...?

Just now, was it..... a dream?

「KISHAAAAA!!」

「FUHAHAHAHAHAHAHA! So that's the degree of your power!!」

「Don't falter! Disperse and aim at its feet!!」

Ahaha..... that's right *ne*, there's no way that was real....

「GURUOOOOOO!!」

Well after all, something like not growing any further, even though I look like a child right now..... *nee*?¹⁰

Un, that's right. It was dream. Not being able to return to Japan was also a dream.

「Ku..., stand firm! If we don't defeat it here, next it will cause damage to the neighbouring villages and towns, and even the Royal Capital you know!」

「FUHAHAHAHAHAHA! It's useless, useless useleess! Prostrate yourselves before this Demon King's manservant number one!」

Oh? My body can move...? It doesn't hurt, anywhere...?

I should've been on the verge of death after being injured by the dragon's tail...?

Then, that was..... it can't be, real...?

「GYAOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!」

DON DON

「SHUT U-----P!!!」

To clatter noisily besides a person when they're seriously thinking...!

「Ufufufufufu.... That's right, in the first place, these guys were also the cause... As well as the appearance of that self-proclaimed God-sama(laugh), if

we're to speak of the source, it was because of this self-proclaimed Demon King's cowardly surprise attack. If it wasn't for that, I wouldn't have received this curse in the name of a blessing.... *Fufufu*, it's fine if I give you, a punishment, right...?」

I stood up while swaying, drew out my weapon, and approached the dragon + the self-proclaimed Demon King.

「! You! It's dangerous! Step back!!」

Although a man who wore armor and a helmet said something to me, I ignored it.

「Now, self-proclaimed Demon King..... are you prepared...?」

For the current me, I feel I wouldn't lose even if the opponent is a dragon. Could I be in some sort of tripped state?

「*mu*, the black haired lass huh? You, should've died...?」

byuo

Although the forelegs of the dragon approached, it was opposed by a defence boundary I spread out and obstructed it.

「*mu*? A magician huh!?」

DON DON

The forelegs' attack came many times, but the defence boundary prevented it from moving an inch.

「*Ufufufu*, it's useless you know? If you don't behave yourself, you'll be punished, okay?」

「*GURUAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!*」

BOOM!

A strike from the tail, which had once driven me into a brink of death in a single blow, approached.

「*fu.*」

zashu

「GYAAAAAAA!!!!」

From my single swing, the tail which was aimed at me was cut from the base and flew off.

「Ridiculous!! To cut its tail flying in a single blow!!?」

I could see the self-proclaimed Demon King's surprised expression.

It's said that a scale of a typical dragon is harder than iron, and its skin is also harder than rock. Because with that single blow, with a diameter of three meters furthermore, its tail was cut off, it's natural to be surprised.

「Ufufu, didn't I say it? If you don't behave yourself, you'll be punished...」

The me at this time, somehow felt like I was able to naturally do it¹¹. When I thought about it afterwards, could this power be an effect of that 「weapon's blessing」 that self-proclaimed God-sama(laugh) talked about?

FLAP FLAP

Perhaps it was the result of cutting off its tail, the dragon grandly flapped its wings. Could it be planning to temporary escape to the sky?

「Since your punishment has yet to end, I won't let you get away you know?」

I quickly swung my katana.

「GUGYAAAAAAA!!!」

One of its wings was quickly cut off, and the dragon that began rising, awkwardly tumbled down to the ground.

Nevertheless, the dragon struggled violently and tried to trample me with its foreleg.

Of course, that sort of desperate attack wouldn't hit me.

「shi.」

I approached the place where its foreleg were raised, flashed my katana, and sliced it off from its base.

Even so, it was persistent, this time it opened its mouth and tried swallowing me, so I sliced off its head.

Without even a death cry, the dragon which had its head dropped in a single blow, while grandly trembling several times, gradually stopped moving.

「Ridiculous..... a Lesser Dragon exceeds S rank you know...? For this sort of child do it alone, furthermore, the way she defeated it...」

The armoured man, who called out to me in the beginning, said something while groaning.

But leaving that aside, that self-proclaimed Demon King. The self-proclaimed Demon King's punishment has yet to end.

When I raised my head and looked at the back of the collapsed and unmoving dragon, the figure of the self-proclaimed Demon King was spread out as if he was clinging there. It appears that he fainted from the impact when it flew up and fell. To faint from that degree, how weak *ne*.

But at this rate, I won't be able to punish him. While I was still standing around the dragon, I decided to request the armoured man.

「Excuse me, because the self-proclaimed Demon Lord is laying on the dragon's back, could I have you take him down?」

From my voice, the dumbfounded armoured man started moving as if he came back to his senses.

「Ah, aah, understood. Oi, you guys! How long are you going to stay engrossed!? Hurry up and restrain that man who calls himself the Demon King!」

fumu, it appears that that armoured man is the commander of this group *ne*.

From the armoured man's voice, the other men hurriedly began moving.

Lines

God's lines are pretty hard to translate with his accent

1. いえ、頭は薄そうですよ？
2. そんな簡単に死んじゃうんですか！？そのお詫びに転生って...。
3. いやいや、あのような失敗は滅多に起こるものではない。

4. じゃから(仮)じゃなく、正真正銘の神じゃと言うておろうに。
5. じゃから違うと言うに…。さっきも言ったじゃろう?
6.この自称神様(笑)め、簡単に言ってくれましたね... ?
7. そんなこと望んでなんて.....あ、今笑いましたね? わかってて言ってるでしょう! ?
8. それだけでは可愛そうじゃからの?
9. ほれ、そろそろ時間じゃ。次に会うのはお主が死んだときかの? ではの」
10. いやだって、今までさえ子供に見られるのに、これ以上成長しないなんて.....ねえ?
11. この時のわたしは、なぜかそれが出来て当然、と感じていました。

Chapter 59 ~ After the Events (事後処理) ?

~things~

natto ~ fermented soybeans

Chapter 59 – After the Events

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「.....Do you live in this area? Could you tell me the reason you're in this sort of place?」

After restraining the self-proclaimed Demon King and calming down, the armoured man called out to me.

By the way, with the exception of me and the man in front of me, there are around twenty people in this place. Since everyone is wearing similar armour, I think they're probably from the Chivalric Order.

In other words, could this be an interrogation?

Well, though isn't necessary to hide anything in particular either *ne*.

「I'm an adventurer that accepted a Goblin subjugation commission from the Adventurers' Guild. I'm here for the purpose of that commission.」

After giving a simple explanation (?), sure enough, the armoured man was surprised.

「From the Adventurers' Guild...? Commission, you say, you're an adventurer? No, but.... Come to think of it, I have heard a rumour though...」

Tsk, as expected, so it's become like this on our first meeting huh. Although I thought I'd gotten accustomed to these exchanges, the thought of repeating the same thing over and over from now on for the rest of my life... That damned self-proclaimed God-sama(laugh)...!

Despite being irritated, I silently presented my adventurer's card
「fumu..... certainly.... This confirms you're an adventurer. Because of that, if possible, could you talk about what you know? At the time we came, the Lesser Dragon was acting violently so we immediately entered combat you see. To be honest, we don't know anything about this man either.」

He said, while looking at the tied up and unconscious self-proclaimed Demon King.

Since there's no need to hide this either, I answered within the scope of my understandings.

「I see, Subordination Magic huh.... That sure is a troublesome thing. However, it's fortunate that it was stopped before it caused any large damages.」

It appears it hasn't done any damage to humans at least *ne*.

Come to think of it, I wonder why the Chivalric Order is in this sort of place?

At least it doesn't seem much time has passed since I first discovered the dragon. If you think about it normally, even if the Chivalric Order gets contacted for an immediate subjugation, it should take a few hours getting here from the Royal Capital. Looking at the position of the sun, I believe not much time has passed but...

When I tried asking that question, the armoured man's response was this,

「We are the survey team for the highway and the surrounding's subjugations. When we stopped by Aire Village, a man came rushing in. While screaming 「there's a dragon!」. I immediately asked for the full story and came rushing here. Since I dispatched a messenger to the Royal Capital as well, I think they'll be arriving soon. Well, it's not necessary anymore thanks to you. More importantly though, I want to know, what are you?¹ Fighting an S ranked over Lesser Dragon alone, furthermore, easily cutting off those hard scales and skin...」

n? So that means, the Chivalric Order arrived here around 30 minutes after I collapsed?

However, even if he asks what am I..... right?

「I'm just an adventurer you know?」

「There's no way you're just an adventurer! I saw your card just now but, you're a D rank right? There's no way a D ranked adventurer could fight a Lesser Dragon alone, furthermore, defeating it while being uninjured!」

「Even if you say that.... I'm really just an adventurer. Besides, I wasn't uninjured you know? I was on the verge of death from its tail's attack.」

Ah, I feel angry after remembering it again. That damned self-proclaimed God-sama(laugh)...!

「Verge of death you say..... no matter how I look at it, aren't you uninjured!? Besides, no matter how you think about it, don't you think it's strange? To cut off a dragon's tail in a single blow!!」

A—, that was...

「Perhaps, I think you wouldn't believe me even if I said it but... When I was on the verge of death, I met a person who called himself God-sama you see. Because of that, my body got restored, and my weapon also got blessed, was what I was told.」

Also, there's that curse in the name of a blessing as well!

Well, even if I said something like that, they'd think, 'isn't she insane?' *ne²*. I'd also think it's strange if I heard that.

However, the armoured man's reaction was different.

「What? You met God? Furthermore, receiving a blessing you say.... Then, that weapon is a sacred treasure!? If that's the case, I'd be convinced.... Could you show me that weapon!?」

Hey, please don't get so close! Scary, it's scary you know!?

I hurriedly nodded and handed over the katana.

「Ooh..., so this is a sacred treasure huh.... I never would've thought, the day I could lay my eyes on it would come...!」

He was awfully moved.

Well, it is a sacred treasure *nee*.... Although I'm not happy since it's *that* self-

proclaimed God-sama's blessing. Well, it should certainly be sharp, right?³

A sacred treasure is, well, just like its name, is said to be a weapon blessed by God-sama, or a magic tool created by God-sama.

Although it's said there are twenty-three of them on this continent, all of their existences are nothing but rumors, so no one knows whether it's the truth or not. That's because, the items that are referred to as sacred treasures are stored as national treasures so they can't be verified. Exhibition of sacred treasures are rarely done, but of course, let alone touching, getting close to one is difficult, much less something like the ability to verify them, it's absurd⁴.

In the first place, it's said that sacred treasures chooses its user, if a person other than the chosen uses it, it turns into an ordinary trash.

And its number one feature is..... a curse. Although it's said to be a curse, if the proper user possesses it, there's no problem in using it. However, it's said if an unrecognized person tries to use its ability by force, or if they steal it from the owner, a calamity will befall upon them. Although I don't know much are truths since they're rumors, there are stories such as a person who tried to steal one suddenly got run over by a carriage, or tripping over a roadside pebble then falling down and dying from a hitting their head. Also, when a certain country tried to possess a sacred treasure and prepared for war, before the start of the war, an epidemic attacked that country and half the soldiers died, furthermore, they even received serious damages from droughts and floods. Well, it's a suspicious legend though...

Although I don't know whether they're true or not, the fact is there have been large conflicts that have occurred concerning sacred treasures during history and the truth hasn't remained.⁵

Furthermore, once it recognizes an owner, it seems it's impossible to part with the sacred treasure until you die.

Even if its thrown away, it seems it'll return to your hands before you know it, and of course, it's the same if its stolen. Because it's a famous story, it seems that not to mention buying and selling sacred treasures, there is no one foolish

enough to steal them.

What I mean by ‘it seems’, is that from the records, the last owner of a sacred treasure was around two hundred years ago.

By the way, it’s said if you try to abuse the power of a sacred treasure, or if you use a sacred treasure to commit crimes, a calamity will fall upon the owner.

Aah, it’s incredibly troublesome, don’t you think? It’s somewhat unpleasant nee...

「I want to throw it away... (*mumble*)」

Maybe he heard the mumbling that I unintentionally leaked out, the armoured man added another thing.

「I think you know this since it’s a famous story, but there’s never been a case of a sacred treasure being lost. Even if it’s stolen, even if it’s thrown away, since it’s said it’ll return to its proper owner, it’s surely impossible to part with it.」

Well, no matter how you see it, it’s like a cursed item. It’s similar to something from a ghost story I’ve heard.... A cursed doll, was it?

That self-proclaimed God-sama (laugh), how is it a blessing? The weapon, the eternal youth, I think they’re all curses. *Aah, the next time we meet, I’ll tear out all the hair on his head and use it to plant a lawn (lolololol) in exchange⁶. And then I’ll call him hair-sama (lol). fufufu.... (note: a pun, hair can be pronounced as ‘kami’, the same as God (kami))*

I ended up unintentionally using the internet slang my elder brother taught me as I thought of the self-proclaimed God-sama(laugh)’s retribution.

Ahem, when I calmed down, the armoured man returned the katana to me.

When I received the katana, for some reason or another, I made sure to hold it between my fingers, I think it can’t be helped.

Ah..., which reminds me, the Goblin subjugation, what should I do about it...?

More or less, there’s a rule where you have to take with you the body parts as verification for the subjugation commission, but... No matter how you look at it, I

won't be able to obtain it, don't you think...? Besides, it was the dragon that defeated them...

Would this time's commission turn into a failure?

For the time being, I'll ask the armoured man since he knows more than me.

「Umm, it might be strange to hear this sort of thing but.... Although I received a Goblin subjugation commission, what happens this time? At the time I came, the Goblins had been annihilated, is this a failed commission as expected, or...?」

From my words, although the armoured man had an astonished expression, he immediately began laughing.

「Hahahaha, I was thinking about what you were about to say, so it was that huh. Aah, I'm sorry. It's fine. Perhaps the Goblin subjugation has surely failed, but an irregular, which was the Lesser Dragon, appeared. Rather than failing in these sorts of extreme cases, the commission gets cancelled. On the contrary, a reward for the subjugation of a Lesser Dragon will probably be given. Since the Chivalric Order will also talk to the guild about it, you can be relieved.」

Oh, is that so? Thank goodness.

Since I haven't had a failure up until now, if possible, it's better to not have something like a black mark.

「Leaving that aside, what will you do about the Lesser Dragon's materials? All these are valuable things, I think it'll turn into a considerable amount of money but.... If possible, I can have the Chivalric Order purchase them, how about it?」

Materials...? Aah, like the scales and fangs. Let me see...

「Could you purchase the majority of it? I'd like to have a few scales and some fangs⁷. And also, is it okay if I have a little bit of its meat?」

Dragon scales and skin are armour materials, and its fangs can be a material for magic tools and weapons. As for the meat..... it's ranked as one of the top class ingredients. Well, even if I receive a large amount, there's not much I can do with just myself *ne*⁸.

By the way, there are usable parts for both the scales and skin as materials⁹. For the parts, the scales that are on its legs and around its neck, and the skin

that are on its tail and back will become materials. Other than those parts, they're either too hard, or they're unsuitable to be processed into armour. Nevertheless, this Lesser Dragon has an overall length of nearly 15 meters, I believe a considerable amount can be harvested.

The dismantling of the dragon was left to the other knights, it seems because the armoured man has to go report and escort the self-proclaimed Demon King, he's returning to the Royal Capital. Incidentally, he also let me get on the carriage together, so I gratefully took that opportunity.

By the way, it appears that the dismantling of the dragon, its transportation to the Royal Capital (it seems it needs to use three carts), and the verification of the materials will take around two days.

It was said that the payment of the materials will be given after that.

We temporarily returned to the village and the village mayor was told that the Goblins and the dragon are gone, then we headed towards the Royal Capital. It seems it's possible to return by evening at this rate.

By the way, it appears the armoured man is called Grove-san. Although it's a bit late, don't you think!?

Although the self-proclaimed Demon King woke up midway, Grove-san forced him back to sleep since he started struggling.

We arrived at the Royal Capital in the evening, then headed towards the Adventurers' Guild without stopping.

The carriage was then temporarily stopped, I headed towards the receptionist together with Grove-san.

I told the whole story at the reception and explained why the Goblin subjugation couldn't be done. Although the part about the Lesser Dragon made an uproar, Grove-san skilfully calmed them. But, the part about me defeating the dragon surprised them again, then Grove-san explained the fine details (up until

the matter of God-sama and the sacred treasure) and created an even bigger uproar.

.....It seems bringing along Grove-san was a mistake.

Could it be fortunate that there wasn't any other adventurers here? Nevertheless, the reason for the uproar was because of the staff members, who were surprised about the Lesser Dragon and sacred treasure, called out other staff members, then those staff members caused an uproar and again called out other staff members..... and that chain reaction kept going. Especially when the story about the sacred treasure came out, the staff members came out one by one. I wonder where so many came from? It was to the extent where the reception area was surrounded by staff members.

This situation, what should I do?

「Quiet down! So noisy!!」

Suddenly, a loud roar came from the reception.

When I looked, a well-built, perhaps over 50 years old(?), well-dressed man glared in this direction.

And from behind him, was Airi-san's face peeking out.

Although there might've been some people who may have forgotten, Airi-san is the receptionist *onee-san* that always takes care of me.

「I am the master of this guild, Gallop Shishtory. Could I have you tell me the full story in a different location?」

An authoritative voice, shall I say? From that person's shout, this incredibly noisy place was quietened down. Judging from the situation, it seems he was called by Airi-san and came? *Naisu*, Airi-san. (*note: Sakura says 'nice' in English*)

「Well then, please follow me. Not a word about what happened here. Everyone, if you understand, then return to work.」

From those words, the staff members, who were scattered around, each returned to their positions.

The place Gallop-san brought us to was a parlour-like location on the third floor of the guild.

As we were offered to sit on the sofa of a lounge suite placed in the centre of the room, Gallop-san sat on the sofa across the table.¹⁰

「Once again, I am the master of this guild, Gallop Shishtory.」

Gallop-san introduced himself, then we each introduced ourselves as well.

「Member of the Fourth Chivalric Order, Grove Ol Sinbart.」

「Sakura Fujino. D ranked adventurer.」

After saying that, I lightly bowed my head.

「Although it's prompt, can I hear the story? I've heard a summary of the story, but I'd like to hear it directly from the person concerned.」

Although his words were polite, there was no room for yes or no.¹¹

I made a sidelong glance towards Grove-san, and decided to leave it all to him.

Maybe Grove-san noticed it, he nodded once then began to speak.

「.....And that's what happened.」

When Grove-san finished his explanation, Gallop-san spoke with a groan.

「.....I don't believe it. No, it's not as if I don't believe what you said but.... If everything is true, then it's become considerably troublesome though.... That Subordination Magic is the problem you see. As for the investigation regarding that, I'll leave it to the Chivalric Order, Sakura Fujino, so it's you huh, that's the sword that received a blessing from God?」

He said, then looked at the katana leaning besides me.

「That's right.」

Although it actually wasn't just the katana *ne!* I won't say it though!

「*fumu*.... Judging from the stories, it seems there's no mistake that it's a sacred treasure. The Chivalric Order wouldn't possibly lie about this *na*. Well, it would be better not to talk about it too much. I'm sure there are people who

haven't heard of the rumors regarding sacred treasures, there are also people who don't believe in the rumors itself. It would be better to avoid unnecessary trouble you see. However, to easily cut and toss away a Lesser Dragon, just like the rumors, the power of a sacred treasure sure is tremendous.]

「U—n..., even if it's said to be that self-proclaimed God-sama(laugh)'s blessing, it has no value for me...」

「Anyway, I'd say it's fortunate that it was disposed of before any sort of damage was caused. Sakura Fujino, think of a reward regarding this matter properly. Let me see..... you should decide on a reward after two days. I'll have someone from here call for you after that. Will that be fine?」

I nodded for the time being.

Actually, this is just a confirmation, it doesn't matter even if I say no *ne*.¹²

「Well then, we should end it with that. Knight-dono as well, thank you very much for going out of your way to explain.」

It appears that's the end.

Although, other than my introduction, I hardly spoke...

Since Gallop-san stood up, we also stood up and left the room.

We left the guild just like that, since Grove-san said he needed to return to the Chivalric Order, we separated there.

If I also don't hurry up and return to prepare dinner... No matter what, today will be dragon steak. *Ufufufu*, I wonder what kind of taste it has? I look forward to it.

Conclusion: it wasn't tasty. Rather, it was unpleasant.

How should I say it..., it tasted sort of like sea urchin and *natto* and bamboo shoots (before removing the dry taste) divided by three¹³... However, the Prince ate it with pleasure. Could it be my sense of taste that's strange? After having an expectation, it became an incredibly disappointing dinner...

(Explanatory note) The meat of a dragon is one of the top class ingredients, it's a 'delicacy'. The meat of a dragon stiffens up one week after its death, it then becomes useless as an ingredient (Preservation Magic Tools have no effect either). Because of its rarity and the unique taste, it seems the gourmets (strange item enthusiasts) of the world and rich people (upstarts) pursue this ingredient.

Lines

1. まあ、それも君のおかげで必要なくなったがな。っと、それよりも聞きたいのだが、君は何者だ？
2. まあ、こんなこと言われても頭がおかしいんじゃないかな？って思いますけどね。
3. まあ、切れ味は確かに良いんですけどね？
4. なにせ、神器と呼ばれるものはそのすべてが国宝として保管されているので確認のしようがないのです。稀に神器の公開がされますが、もちろん触れるどころか近付くことも難しく、ましてや性能の確認なんてもってのほかです。
5. それが真実かどうかはわかりませんが、実際に歴史上では神器を巡って大きな争いが起きた事実は残っています。
6. ああ、今度会うことがあったら頭に毛を全部剃って代わりに芝(wwwww)植えてやりましょう。
7. 鱗を何枚かと、牙をいくつかは頂きたいと思います。
8. まあ、たくさん貰ってもわたしだけじゃどうしようもありませんけどね。
9. ちなみに鱗も皮膚も、素材として使える部分と言うのは決まっています。
10. 部屋の中央に置いてある応接セットのソファに勧められるままに座ると、テーブルを挟んでギャロップさんもソファに座ります。
11. 言葉は丁寧ですが、そこには有無を言わせぬものがあります。
12. 実際、これは確認の為であって、わたしいうが否と言っても関係なさそうですけどね。
13. なんて言うのでしょうか…、ウニと納豆とタケノコ(アク抜き前)を足して3で割ったような味、というか…。

Chapter 60 ~ The Hero's Appearance

Chapter *kyaa*~ –

(highlight)

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Today is the third day since the dragon's subjugation. My schedule today is to receive the dragon's subjugation reward from the Adventurers' Guild, and to receive payment for the materials harvested from dragon from the Chivalric Order.

I firstly headed to the Adventurers' Guild.

When I informed and entrusted my adventurer's card to the receptionist, I was led to the parlour from the other day.

It seems this is where the reward for the dragon's subjugation will be handed out.

By the way, it's already well known within the Royal Capital regarding the appearance and subjugation of the Lesser Dragon.

Well, if a wagon loaded full of materials from a Lesser Dragon runs through the Royal Capital, it'll immediately be well known *ne*. It seems more or less because it's been said that it the Chivalric Order cooperated with the adventurers to subjugate it, my name wasn't released. So that's the reason why the reward is being handed out secretly.

As for the reason why my name hasn't appeared, although it's also related to the problem of the sacred treasure, it seems there'll be stupid people who would think of trying to gain fame by defeating the adventurer who defeated a dragon¹. Of course, fights are prohibited within the town, so battles between fellow adventurers are basically prohibited. What I mean by basically, is that if you fill in an application, it's possible to have a duel-like competition. Well, in addition, it's not to kill each other, but a mock battle, however. Especially a low

ranked adventurer like me, the number of opponents would surely increase, so my name wasn't released because of that.

DON!

Airi-san, who was sitting in front of me, placed a leather bag on the table packed with content.

「As a result of the Guild Master's absence, I will be in charge instead. This is the reward for the subjugation of the dragon. Also, I'll return your adventurer's card *ne*.」

She said. When I looked at the card that was handed over, the rank was..... B!? Eh? It was D just a little while ago, right?

「For the subjugation this time, Fujino-sama's rank has been rank-upped to B. Originally, although it's required to take an exam for each rank to become rank B, it's improper for a person who could subjugate a Lesser Dragon alone to be left with a low rank, and so it's become a special rank-up without the need for an examination². Well, since a solo Lesser Dragon subjugation is a rank S commission, it means you were judged to have sufficient ability *ne*.」

While looking at my suddenly ranked-up card, I said 'hoo~' as I listened to the storyOh? Why do I have a feeling this is my first decent rank-up...?³

「The reward for the subjugation this time is 100 gold coins. Properly speaking, the case this time would be a disaster class. For disposing of it before any damages happened, the guild also offers their gratitude.」

Hundred!?

「100 gold coins you say...」

That's 10 million Japanese Yen you know!? It's an amazingly large amount!

「It's not much considering it's an S ranked commission, right? My apologies. There were various circumstances, so this was the best we could do this time.」

Eh? This isn't much? Even though I thought it was too much!?

By the way, it seems the various circumstances that was said was because it

was officially subjugated by the Chivalric Order. Because various noble-sama's picked a fight or something, it seems the reward for the guild from the Chivalric Order had decreased considerably⁴.

I nervously accepted the bag that contained the reward. When Airi-san saw that, she spoke while expressing a wry smile.

「Fujino-sama, if you don't want to carry over a fixed amount of money, would you like to deposit it in the guild? There's a free bank account service for guild members. It will be filled out on the deposit column on your card, and it's possible to withdraw it no matter which guild you're at. However, for the amount that's deposited in the guild, if you die or go missing for over three years, the full amount will be donated to the guild. It's a popular service for people who don't want to carry a large amount of money with them you know?」

Eh? There was this sort of service?

「By all means, please!」

Thank goodness.... The thought of carrying such a large amount of money made me scared. If, in the case I lose it.... *tremble*

「Certainly. Well then, since 100 gold coins will be deposited, allow me to keep hold of it. I'll need to take care of your card *ne*. Since it will be completed shortly, please wait on the first floor around the reception.」

Urged by Airi-san who left her seat, I headed towards the first floor.

「Let me return your card. Please confirm the note column and make sure there's no mistakes.」

When I looked at my card that was handed over, the notes column had 「Deposit: 100」 written on it. 100?

「The minimum deposit is 1 gold coin, which is 10,000 Goualch. Furthermore, the minimum amount for both depositing and withdrawing is 1 gold coin.」

Esper!? As if my thoughts were completely read, I received a supplementary explanation.

「So, are there any mistakes in the entry?」

「T-There's no mistake.」

I rigidly nodded my head when she reminded me of the question.

Seeing me like that, Airi-san looked at me with warm eyes.

u, what? Those eyes, what is it?

「I-If you'll excuse me!」

Being somewhat unable to endure it, I rushed out of the guild.

「That black-haired woman over there! So you're the Demon King huh!! Prepare for punishment!」

When I left the Adventurers' Guild, a voice suddenly called out.

When I looked at the direction of the voice, there was a man standing there wearing an extravagant mantle, a blue tunic, glittering white trousers, and shining armour pointing in my direction.

Blond hair with golden eyes, a beauty. Somehow, I could sort of see a sparkling aura coming out of him.

Behind that man, there were four women who were also beauties. A woman with a risqué warrior-like appearance, a woman wearing a white robe, a woman with a rough appearance with a bow on her back, and a woman with a magician-like appearance. Is it that, the rumoured harem party I've heard of?

「You, who came out from that building just now! The black-haired black-eyed child! I know that you're the Demon King!! This Hero-sama will defeat you!!」

When I looked around, the man raised his voice once again.

Black-eyed black-haired? That's the same as me *ne*. So there were others that had it huh. *Eh?* It's not about me, you know? After all, didn't he say it was a child?

When I restlessly looked around for a black-eyed black-haired person, the man raised his voice a second time.

「Don't ignore me! It's you, you! Right! The one looking around restlessly, the little one over there!」

The finger of the self-proclaimed Hero, who was making a fuss, pointed at me.

Haa? Is he making fun of me saying I'm a child and small?⁵ Besides, wasn't he taught that it's wrong to point fingers at people?

Good grief, lately, there's been a self-proclaimed God-sama(laugh) and a self-proclaimed Demon King and a self-proclaimed Hero, there's too many self-proclaims. Although they're just calling themselves that, is it that? Is it that 14 year old illness? Is it spreading? (*note: chuunibyou*)

「Hmph, I know that you're the Demon King. And I'm the Hero. In other words, you're destined to be defeated by me! Now, obediently become this sword's rust!」

The self-proclaimed Hero spoke his speech on his own accord, then drew out his sword.

From behind the self-proclaimed Hero, there were shrill voices shouting things like 「Kya~! Hero-sama, how wonderful!! Beat up that Demon King~」.

The current time is just before 9 o'clock in the morning, there's a considerable amount of pedestrians in this area. To suddenly pull out a weapon in this sort of place, could he be an idiot? Does he not understand that swinging a weapon in this place would bother others?

There's a considerable amount of people gathered around us in a circle.

「Come, draw your sword! Or are you frightened? If that's the case, if you cry for forgiveness, I may go easy on you, you know? Since I'm kind, you see.」

「Hero-sama~. Beat up that Demon King~!」

「No matter what kind of opponent, to show mercy towards them is.... As expected of the Hero-sama wa!」

Uwaa..., what a cheap provocation *ne*. It's something I'd expect a hoodlum to say, you know?

Leaving that aside, is it no good to ignore him like this? To be honest though, it's quite troublesome.

In the first place, what does he mean by I'm the Demon King? I don't remember either claiming to be something like a Demon King, or calling myself that, you know?

「What's this racket!?」

At that moment, two knights pushed their way through the people and appeared. They seem to be the Royal Capital's patrol soldiers.

The knight looked at me and the self-proclaimed Hero, then frowned.

「What's the meaning of this!? Fights within the town are strictly forbidden you know!」

fumu, I might be able to put this to use.

I put the strategy I thought of into effect.

「It's him! He shouted at me then suddenly drew his weapon! He said that he'll kill me if I don't behave myself...! I, got afraid and couldn't say anything...」

I hugged my own body and looked down at the ground as if I was afraid.

On one hand is a young girl trembling in fear (in appearance), on the other hand is a man with a drawn sword. It's easy to see which side to support, right?

「To do something that cruel to such small child...! You! As a man just like me, I won't permit it! I'll have you come to the guardroom!!」

Just as planned, it seems the knight took my side.

The self-proclaimed Hero was in a panic.

「W-Wait a minute! I haven't done anything yet, you know!? You were deceived! I'm the Hero you know!?!」

「Silent! You haven't done anything 'yet', which means you plan on doing something right!? I'll have you tell me the full story in the guardroom. Come now!」

With his sword seized, the self-proclaimed Hero was grasped from both sides by the knights.

「Hey, let go! Do you think you can do this sort of thing to the Hero!? *Oi!*」

「Wait a minute, what do you think you're doing to the Hero-sama? Release your hands!」

「Hero-sama~!」

The self-proclaimed Hero was taken along by the knights as if he was being dragged.

「*Hmph*, that's your reward for harshly calling people children and small. You should reflect upon it.」⁶

Good grief, just because you're slightly tall and beautiful.... To make matters worse, what's with those lackeys? Having both nice tall figures and large chests.... Seriously, I'm envi—..... it's outrageous⁷. Shall I pick off a little the next time we meet?

Now then, since the weirdo has left, shall I go to the Chivalric Order?

Hey, 120 gold coins, they said!

What is it, you say? It's the dragon's materials you see! I'm surprised you know!?

Altogether, there were forty scales and twelve fangs, including the skin and meat, it seems it reached that price with just that much.

Uwaa..., dragons sure are incredibly profitable *ne!*

Ah, of course, I received five scales and two fangs for my own use, and a little bit of its remaining skin.

I've become a rich person in a single go just from today!

Aah, but even if I save up money, I've lost my original goal *ne...*

Although it's aggravating to believe in that self-proclaimed God-sama, he was persuasive more or less...

Not being able to return to Japan anymore, what should my goal be from now on?

Originally, I understood there was a low possibility of returning but.... Now that

I've understood I can't return, I don't know what I should do anymore *ne...*

A—, geez! It's not like me to hesitate and worry!⁸ Delicious meals are needed at a time like this! That's right, let's also make a dessert today as well! A cake would be good *ne*. A fluffy sponge cake with plenty of fresh cream on it.... Since it's currently the season for fruits, something like kiwis would be good. Since I've decided, let's go shopping at once!

「I've finally found you, you damned Demon King! How dare you do that to me this morning! That's not going to happen this time!!」

While I was purchasing from the grocery store, the self-proclaimed Hero made an appearance once again.

「Who might you be?」

「The Hero! H·E·R·O! Even though we met this morning! Don't forget!」

No, I didn't forget though *ne*.

「What business could this Hero need from me?」

I'm busy you know. If you have business, then please quickly get it over with.

「I also said it this morning though! Demon King, I came here for the sake for defeating you! Now, fight me!」

「I decline.」

「Don't decline it!!」

What an annoying person *ne*. Could he not quieten down a little? Look, aren't the curious onlookers gathering again?

「To have a meaningless fight, isn't that troublesome? In the first place, who are you calling a Demon King? I'm not a Demon King you know?」

「Lies! My investigations points that you're the Demon King!」⁹

「Wouldn't it be fine even if you don't shout so much? You sure are a hot-tempered person.... Is it calcium deficiency? Are you eating your meals properly? Do you know? Besides calcium deficiency, which can also make a person easily

irritable, it seems hunger or a bad balance of meals can cause people to be hot-tempered you know? It's important to eat you know?」

「Those sorts of things don't matter! Everything will end if you fight against me!! Hurry up and fight!」

Good grief, someone who doesn't accept a person's kindness is completely useless *ne*.

「*Haa...*, you want to fight here?」

Different from this morning, the self-proclaimed Hero didn't draw his sword.

「*Hmph*, since soldiers will come again if I draw my weapon here. Let's go outside town, come!」

Saying that, the self-proclaimed Hero turned his back on me and walked towards the eastern gate.

Of course, together with his female lackey group.

I wonder why these types of people don't listen to what others say?

And I wonder why they think things will go according to their thoughts?

「*Haa...*」

I breathed out a sigh, then carried the items I bought from the grocery store and started walking.

.....In the opposite direction of the self-proclaimed Hero.

Now then, next is the milk store. A small amount is necessary in order to make fresh cream.

I'll also need to go to Graham-san's place and have him make a cake frame or else...

Aah, so many things to do.

While receiving the gazes of the silent curious onlookers, I headed towards the milk store.

Lines

1. 名前が出ていない理由として、神器の問題もありますが、ドラゴンを倒した冒険者を倒して名を上げようと言う、馬鹿な事を考える輩がいるからだそうです。
2. 本来はランクB以上になるにはそれぞれのランクでの昇級試験を受けていただく必要があるのですが、レッサー・ドラゴンを一人で討伐できる方を低ランクのまま置いておく方がもったいない、ということで特別に試験無しでのランクアップとなっています。
3.あれ？わたしつてまともなランクアップは1回しかしていない気が...？
4. なんでもどこかの貴族様が色々とイチャモンをつけて来たとか何とかで、騎士団からギルドへの報酬分がかなり目減りしたということらしいです。
5. はあ？子供だとちっさいのって人を馬鹿にしているんですか？
6. 「ふん、散々人を子供だ小さいだの言ってくれたおれですよ。反省すればいいんです」
7. 全く、うらやま.....けしからんですよ。
8. あー、もう！うじうじと悩むのも性に合いません！
9. 「嘘をつけ！お前が魔王だと言うことは調べがついているんだぞ！」

Chapter 61 ~ The Hero's Circumstance

~things~

bento ~ a Japanese boxed lunch

Chapter 61 –

(highlight)

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「Haa haa, I finally..... found..., you! Haa..., this time, you won't get away!」

「fue? (chew chew)」

The third time encountering the self-proclaimed Hero was beside a forest a ways away from the Royal Capital.

This was the following day from which I first met the self-proclaimed Hero, I accepted a harvesting commission from the guild just as usual.

And so, I smoothly completed the commission, right now I'm at a place eating a *bento* I brought along.

「Did you go out of your way to chase me to this sort of place? (chew chew)」

Rather than persistent, rather than tenacious..., he's difficult.¹!

「I had a hard time finding you! I asked everywhere, I heard you took a commission so I came running over! How dare you make a fool out of me yesterday!!」

Good grief, please be quiet okay. Isn't it ruining the taste of my meal?²

「Hero-sama~, please wai~t.」

The female harem members arrived late.

「And so, what sort of business do you have? (chew chew)」

「Stop eating! Listen to what have to say!!」

Isn't it just listening? I can do it while eating though.

「How many times do I have to say it!? It's my mission to defeat the Demon King!! Therefore, I need to defeat you!!」

「Oh my, what a tough mission *ne.* (chew chew, gulp)」

「I said stop eating! My mission will be completed if I defeat you, the Demon King!」

Even though I already said I wasn't the Demon King...

「I understand, how about having a meal for the time being? You'll become hot-tempered from being hungry you know. Please have a meal and calm down.」

「Shut up! Wait, you, what's that bread!? Is that perhaps, a sandwich...?」

Oh?

「You know what a sandwich is?」³

There shouldn't be sandwiches in this world. Rather, there isn't any bread that can make sandwiches.

「I don't just know about it, it's a common food in my world. There's nothing but hard bread in this world so I haven't seen one you see. How come you have them?」

My world? This world...?

「Isn't it obvious I made it myself? Can you tell me who else can make them?」⁴

Well, it can't be helped even if the self-proclaimed Hero says it though.⁵

「More importantly, what do you mean by things such as 'my world' and 'this world'?」

「Whyy do I have tell you that sort of thing?」

mu, if that's the case...

「Well then, won't you tell me if I give you this sandwich?」

A transaction. However, the self-proclaimed Hero was tough.

「I-I don't need it! Why would a Demon King be interested to know that sort of

thing!?)」

「Even though it's so tasty.... This one is crushed boiled eggs dressed with mayonnaise and mustard. *munch*... Too bad....」

Oh, he's trembling *ne*. Shall I give him another push?

「This one here is a simple surface grilled bacon together with pepper and ketchup. The bacon's saltiness matches well with tingling accent of the pepper you know.」

The self-proclaimed Hero's eyes are glued to the sandwiches.

「And this sandwich has slices of chicken roasted together with herbs, with mustard and lettuce. I'm fairly confident with my work. *Aah*, but I can't eat anymore since my stomach is full *ne*. I made slightly too many. Since I took the effort to make them, shall I have the gatekeepers eat them on my way back...?」

Now, how about that?

「*Tsk*, it can't be helped huh! That'll be a waste so I'll eat it okay!」

fu, that was easy *ne*... Even a self-proclaimed Hero will fall on their knees in front of delicious food! Delicious things are justice you know!

「*fufu*.... Well then, here you go?」

The self-proclaimed Hero timidly put the sandwich I gave him in his mouth. And then ate a mouthful...

「T-This is...!」

He opened his mouth a second time and took a large bite. He ate with amazing vigor.

It was consumed in a blink of an eye,

Without saying a single word, the self-proclaimed Hero ate up the remaining sandwiches.

The female lackeys dumbfoundedly watched on.

Finishing his last mouthful, he drank the tea I gave him and finally took a

breath to relax.⁶

「It's been a long time since I've eaten something with decent flavour...」

「Well then, could I have you talk about it? The meaning of 'my world' and 'this world'.... Ah, it can't be, a person calling himself a Hero wouldn't just snatch food and run away, right?」

The Hero stiffened up from those words I said while I was tidying up the basket.

When I peeked at his face, he had an 'oh crap' type of expression pasted on his face.

Fufu, my strategy was victorious ne.

「Haa, I understand, okay.... Although you might not believe it, I came here by being summoned from a world different from this one. My original world had nothing like magic, instead, we developed a different technology. That place also had even tastier food, those things that looked like a sandwich earlier are commonly eaten as well.」⁷

Fumu..., summoned from another world, was it? Certainly, Summoning Magic does exist. However, that should be a tabooed technique that's been banned from being used. The reason is because it requires over ten magicians as sacrifices to perform the summoning, and ten days to perform the ritual. When it comes to using that sort of magic for a summoning...

「That summoning, which country performed it?」

Judging from the situation, it's most likely...

「.....The country of Soutines. I was summoned there and was called the Hero. 'Because the Demon King has descended, please save the world by defeating it', they said.」

So it's just as I thought. The country of Soutines is a militaristic country located north of Sobule Kingdom. From what the Prince has said, a skirmish occurred a few years ago at the border, it seems a small fight happened last month as well. Even without that, the relationship between the two country doesn't seem to be very good. The cold climate country of Soutines and the temperate and

abundant Sobule Kingdom. The country of Soutines has sought after this abundant land and has been making a pass at it since long ago...

「Saying I was the Demon King, did the country of Soutines say that as well?」

From my question, the self-proclaimed Hero nodded with a sullen expression.

「Right. ‘A black-haired black-eyed Demon King is in Sobule Kingdom’, they said. And since the royal family is sheltering the Demon King, they said I must defeat the royal family as well.」

「Hero-sama, even if you tell that sort of thing to the Demon King...!」

One of the lackeys interrupted by shouting.

「“Silence” and “Restraint”」

Since we’re in the middle of a conversation, I used sorcery to have them behave themselves. Seeing that I used sorcery without chanting, the self-proclaimed Hero and the female lackeys stirred up.⁸

「Please be quiet. We’re still in the middle of a conversation you know?」

To begin with, Silence and Restraint are both intermediate sorcery. Even though it should be simple to handle this much for a mage... (*note: it seems mage is a level above magician(?)*)

Seeing that the self-proclaimed Hero’s lackeys have become quiet, I resumed the conversation.

「And, the Hero-sama believed those words without any doubt?」

The credibility of information that’s only been received from one source decreases considerably. It’s necessary to collect information from several viewpoints before judging. For this self-proclaimed Hero to not do that, as expected, it looks like he’s no more than self-proclaimed.

「.....The King said it. It’s the words of a King of an entire country you know? There shouldn’t be a mistake though.」

An idiot *ne*. An extremely idiotic Hero.

Although it might be fine to ignore it and leave it as it is, since it’s irritating to be persistently chased around, let’s at least give him some advice.

「Just because a king said it, doesn't make it the truth. No, it's because the person is in that sort of position, they'll tell as many lies as they can for the sake of their own country. You said you were summoned, but who was it that summoned you? And the method to return? Are you certain of it? Did you confirm it? Who can prove that it's not a lie? If, in the case that it's a lie, what will you do? Without even confirming those things, it seems you're just being manipulated by words, you shouldn't just listen to what they say you know?」

From my words, the self-proclaimed Hero's complexion changed.

「E-Even if you say that sort of thing.... I was told I could return to my world if I defeat the Demon King and this country's royalty.... There's no way I could've confirmed that....」

「The king said the Demon King was a black-eyed black-haired person right? At the very least, I'm not aware of a black-eyed black-haired person other than me, but I'm not the Demon King. I'll say this while I'm at it, I'm a human that came to this world from another world around two months ago. The world I was in is a country called Japan, on Earth, but my situation wasn't that I was summoned, it was a coincidence.」

Hearing that, the self-proclaimed Hero lifted his head, which was looking at the ground. Astonishment was pasted on his face.

「Earth? Japan you say..., I also came from Japan!」

The same home town huh...? Well then, it's necessary for me to say this as well *ne*.

「Is that so.... Although it's cruel, it's not possible to return to Japan. It's impossible you see. At least, living through it.」

The self-proclaimed Hero's complexion rapidly got worse.

「And also, I'll tell you various things since I've already put in the effort.... Firstly, the country of Soutines and Sobule Kingdom are on extremely bad terms. Although I say that, the actual state of affairs is that the country of Soutines arbitrarily started it. Skirmishes are still going on throughout the border. And also, Summoning Magic has been designated as a tabooed technique. I wonder why they used that tabooed technique to summon you? While I'm at it, even if

you look in history books, an existence called a Demon King hasn't been seen in the past two thousand years. *Aah*, if it's a human self-proclaiming themself to be a Demon King, then I heard one was confined in prison the other day. Although it seems the best that self-proclaimed Demon King could do was control a single monster.]

Although it was actually a big-shot Lesser Dragon that was controlled, there shouldn't be a need to say it.

「In other words, you were summoned to this world by using a tabooed technique, they made up an imaginary Demon King, and finally lied to you that the royalty of this country are the bad guys. Furthermore, they even said they could 『return you to your original world』, which isn't possible.... Even though I've only said this much, you understand how much you're been lied to, right? Well, since my words might also be lies, please think carefully about it yourself.」

The complexion of the self-proclaimed Hero has already gone beyond blue, and has become white.

When I look at the female lackeys, although three of them have a bad complexion and are staring at the Hero, only the lady who shouted earlier is flapping her mouth open and close in shock.

「*Aah*, this lady seems to know the situation, you know? Wouldn't it be a good idea to try to ask her later as well?」

From those words, that lady's mouth suddenly shut.

The self-proclaimed Hero exchanged glances between me and that lady several times.

「That's all I'll be saying. *Aah*, although it's at the end, let me introduce myself. I am Fujino Sakura, from the way it's said in this place, it's Sakura Fujino ne. I work as an adventurer. I'm from Tokyo, Japan.」

When I asked 'you are?' with my gaze, the self-proclaimed Hero slowly opened his mouth.

「...I am, Takahashi Hajime. I'm from Kanagawa prefecture, Japan...」

「Well then Takahashi-san, once again, please take your time and think about

it. Since I'm in the middle of a commission, I shall be leaving here *ne*. Aah, the sorcery should be dispelled later at 4 and a half koku.]

Saying that, I stood up and proceeded towards the Royal Capital. Although I saw the self-proclaimed Hero reaching out his hand within the edge of my field of view, I ignored it. Though it seems harsh, it's no use if he doesn't come up with his own answer. Besides..... I haven't completely accepted that I won't be able to return to my original world either...

Leaving behind the self-proclaimed Hero with his head hung down and the female lackeys, I walked towards the Royal Capital.

Lines

1. しつこいと言うか、執念深いと言うか...、ご苦労なことです。
2. ご飯がおいしくなくなるじゃないですか。
3. 「サンドイッチを知っているんですか？」
4. 他に誰が作ってくれると言うんですか？」
5. まあ自称勇者に言っても仕方のないことですが。
6. 最後の一口を食べ終え、私の差し出したお茶を飲んでようやく息をつきました。
7. 信じられねーかもしれないが、俺はことは違う世界から召喚されて来たんだ。俺の元いた世界は魔法なんてなくて、代わりに違う技術が発展していたんだ。そこでは食べ物ももっと味があって、さっきのサンドイッチみたいなものも普通に食べれたんだ」
8. わたしが呪文もなく魔術を使ったのを見て、自称勇者と取り巻きの女性が色めき立ちました。
9. それらの事を確認もしないで、ただ言葉に踊らされているようじゃ、話にもなりませんよ？」

Chapter 62 ~ I Was Captivated

Chapter 62 – I Was Captivated

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teku teku teku... (note: sfx of walking at a steady pace)

toko toko toko... (note: sfx of briskly walking with small steps)

teku teku teku...

toko toko toko...

teku teku..... stop.

toko toko..... stop.

The footsteps, which came from behind me, stopped at exactly the time I stopped.

「Haa...」

I breathed out a sigh and looked back, then turned my eyes towards the culprit who was following behind me.

「Nya~」

The culprit sat there well-behaved(?), looked up at me, and let out a cute cry.

「Why are you following me?」

「Nya~」

I'm sorry, I don't understand what you're saying.

「Haa~」

I faced the sky and let out a sigh of the who knows how many Nth time.¹

To begin with, the start of this event began from a casual encounter.

Today, when I completed my commission, I finished reporting to the guild and was on my way to go shopping². When I was walking along the street, I heard the cry of a cat. When I casually turned my face towards it, a white kitten with light brown spots was crouched there.

It didn't show any signs of escaping when I tried approaching, when I examined its state for a little while, I discovered it was somewhat hungry.

I remembered I kept the remaining sandwiches from lunch, so I decided to give a little to it.

The kitten bit into the sandwich without any vigilance, maybe it was extremely hungry, it immediately finished eating. I gave the remaining sandwiches (although I say that, there was only one) to the kitten, and returned to go shopping after I saw it finish eating, but...

teku teku teku...

toko toko toko...

Turns around

「Nya~」

teku teku teku...

toko toko toko...

Turns around

「Nya~」

It seems its somewhat attached to me. How troublesome...

「That sandwich just now was the last one. Even if you follow me, there's no more you know?」

Though I say that, it probably doesn't even understand *ne*.

teku teku teku...

toko toko toko...

「Like I said, even if you follow me, I'll be troubled you know.」

「Nya~」

Its tail slapped the ground with a ‘teshi teshi’ sound.

For the time being, would it give up if I ignore it?

「This and this..... and this as well please.」

「Sure thing. *Oh*, did you start raising a cat?」

「Nya~」

「The usual bacon and..... sausage as well please. *Ah*, could I also get 500g of pork?」

「Alright, it’ll be delivered by the evening. *n?* Is this cat Sakura-chan’s? *Oh*, does it eat bacon?」

「Nya~」

「Wait, please don’t feed cats something that has such strong taste!」

「Excuse mee, 1 litre of milk please.」

「Wait just a moment.... Okay. *Oh*, that sure is a cute cat. Does it drink milk?」

「Nya~」

「*Aah!* It’ll damage its stomach if it drinks it cold you know!」³

「*Uhm*..... lettuce and tomatoes, cucumbers and bell peppers, and...」

「Sorry to keep you waiting. *n?* Did you start raising a cat? Does it want to eat something?」

「Nya~」

「You mustn’t serve it onions!」

「*Aah*, geez! Why does everybody try feed it weird things!? In the first place,

even though it's not my pet cat, why am I...」

「Nya~」

I involuntarily dropped on my knees and dejectedly hung my head down.

teshi teshi

Something soft tapped my hand which was placed on the ground. When I shifted my attention to it, the cat's foreleg was tapping my hand.

「Are you trying to comfort me...?」

「Nya~」

Could it perhaps understand my words?

「Why are you following me?」

「Nya~」

「Do you like me?」

「Nya~」

「Do you hate me?」

「Ni~」

「Will you come to my house?」

「Nya~」

「If you're going to live with me, you'll have to listen to me okay?」

「Nya~」

I gently lifted it up.

「You sure are fluffy *ne*. But a little dirty. Let's have a bath together when we return home.」

「Ni~」

teshi teshi

Maybe it's a reaction to the bath, my arm was hit with a cat punch. (*NEKO PANCHI*)

「That's not good you know. Didn't I say you have to listen to me if we're to live together?」

「Ni~」

teshi teshi

「Now, shall we return?」

「Nya~」

「fufu...」

I unconsciously spilled out a smile from my mouth.

Oh? When did I decide to keep...? Is this a cat's charm...? *Wa!* It can't be, is this the so-called popular 'nyandare' thing!?⁴

「Hey, keep still.」

scrub scrub

「Ni~」

「Just a little more..... now, what's left is to wash it away...」

「Ni~」

「Look, you've become clean you know? It'll be over after I dry you properly.」

gacha

I left the dressing room with the kitten in my arms.

pyon (*note: sfx for leaping away(?)*)

「Ah, hey! Wait up! If you don't dry properly...! Kya.」

shake shake shake

The kitten shook its body and drops of water went flying.

During the gap when I flinched, it jumped up and opened the door.

Wait, aren't its abilities too high for a kitten?

「Nya~」

「Wait up! Ah, Prince, please catch that..... cat?」

Eh? Prince? How come...?

「Ah, Sakura...? Uhm, This is, uh....., you didn't answer even when I called out, and the door was opened as well...」

「Ah..., I'm sorry about that. I was taking a bath so...」

「Nya~」

「This cat is...?」

「Ah, I picked it up. It seems to be somewhat attached...」

「Nya~」

「I see...」

「Right...」

「Nya~」

「So..... if you don't cover yourself with something soon.... I'm worried about where to look....」

Cover? Eh? Aah, now that he mentions it, I'm...

「.....KYAAAAAA!! Please turn around without looking!」

I hurriedly covered my body with my arms and crouched down on the spot.

「S-Sorry!」

「Nya~」

teshi teshi

Don't 'nya~' me! Speaking of the cause, isn't this your fault?!? I was seen again! I was seen by the Prince again...!

Afterwards, I returned to the dressing room and didn't come out for a little while.

And one more thing as well, the atmosphere of today's dinner was incredibly awkward.

「Nya~」

author's note

Nya~. The Prince's passive skills

Hetare: 7/10

Lucky Lecher: 2/10

にゃ～。

王子のパッシブスキル

ヘタレ 7/10

ラッキースケベ 2/10

Lines

1. わたしは何度目になるかわからない溜息を、空に向かって吐き出しました。
2. 今日も依頼を終えたわたしは、ギルドの報告を終えて買い物に向かう途中でした。
- 3.「ああ！冷えたままだとお腹壊しますよ！」
4. まさかこれが巷で言うところのニヤンデレってやつですか！？

Chapter 63 ~ Hero, Think

Chapter 63 – Hero, Think

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「Haa~」

That's no good... To sigh like this first thing in the morning... I know the cause of the sigh. The Demon King, no, it's Fujino huh. It's because of the words that girl said.

『You were summoned to this world by using a tabooed technique, they made up an imaginary Demon King, and finally lied to you that the royalty of this country are the bad guys. Furthermore, they even said they could 『return you to your original world』, which isn't possible... Even though I've only said this much, you understand how much you've been lied to, right?』

Am I..... being deceived?

If the words of that girl are true, that means I can't return to Japan. Then I..... must live in this world?

No, didn't that girl also say,

『Since my words might also be lies, please think carefully about it yourself.』

She might be lying...

Is there a reason for her to lie? There is a reason. In order to escape from me, the Hero. However, if we assume everything she said was a lie then..... I think her behaviour is strange.¹

She said that she came to this world two months ago by coincidence. She also knew about Japan. She even went out of her way to introduce herself. And she didn't try to attack me.

But, she's familiar with this world. She could also use sorcery. In just two months? That should be impossible. Didn't the Royal Court Magician say it? 'It

takes at least one year to reach a point where elementary sorcery can be used' he said...² Then what about her sorcery? Even I, with the additional special ability from being summoned, took a month to reach the point where I could barely use elementary level sorcery.

.....Even when I try to think about it, I don't understand. What's going on, I wonder?

『Please think carefully about it yourself.』

The girl's words echoed in my mind. What should I do when I don't understand even when I think about it?

Right, I should try asking if I don't understand.

kon kon kon

「Eleanor, is she not here?」

I first visited the priest, Eleanor's room. That girl said it at that time.

『Aah, this lady seems to know the situation, you know? Wouldn't it be a good idea to try ask her later as well?』

At that time, the girl's eyes were looking at Eleanor. I wonder what Eleanor knows?

But she's not here so it can't be helped.

Let's look for the next one.

『Ah, you three, this is perfect. There's something I want to ask.』

There wasn't anyone in the rooms, so when I tried going to the first floor, except Eleanor, three people, Adela, Fillice, and Matilda, were sat around a table.

Adela is a female warrior, sort of like how they appear in games, she's wearing quite the risqué armour. Her weapon is a large axe and she's a reliable vanguard during combat. Fillice is skilled at wielding a bow, and possesses various skills needed for travelling. I've been very much under her care since we've left the

country. Matilda is a magician who's well-informed of various matters. Although she's still young, she's composed, I've relied on her since I'm not well informed.³

Including Eleanor, these four people are important comrades whom the King assigned to me when I began my journey as the Hero.

「Hey, about what that girl said, what do you think?」

Since everyone was there, I went straight to the point.

「I..... tried thinking about it but I don't really understand. That's why, I want to hear everyone's opinions...」

Saying that, I looked at the three people's face, but they had a..... perplexed expression.

「I don't know the minor details. The King didn't say anything other than to go together with the Hero.」

Adela spoke and let out a sigh at the same time while leaning against her chair
「Me too, just like Adela. The King said I'm to be in this party. However, that Demon King, no, that girl, if what she says is the truth, I wonder what'll happen to us *ne...*」

Followed by Fillice. The last part was muttered while she hung her head down.

「I..... think what that girl said made sense. Leaving aside whether she's the Demon King or not, it seems she has information that even I'm not aware of. At the very least, within the scope of what I know, what she said isn't wrong.」

Last was Matilda. However, Matilda then opened her mouth with an expression as if she's brooding over something.

「.....Did you try ask Eleanor-san? I think Eleanor-san is hiding something. Thinking back, her behaviour so far as well, Eleanor-san commented whenever something happened, I think her behaviour was overbearing at times⁴. If we believe what that girl said, then Eleanor-san is...」

Matilda painfully cut her words off.

It's been one month since I was summoned, and two weeks since we left for our journey. Although it's only been two weeks, it's painful to suspect a comrade

that we've travelled together with.⁵

However, I understand everyone is suspecting Eleanor from watching their expressions.

「...I'll try asking Eleanor later. Until then, I'll try gather information around town regarding that girl for the time being.」

With that, I should be able to at least judge whether that girl is the Demon King or not.

After planning that, I left the inn and decided to ask the people in town.

The first place I went to was the Adventurers' Guild. Since she's registered as an adventurer, I believe this will be the easiest place to gather information.

「I'd like to ask about a person but, it's about an adventurer named Sakura Fujino...」

First I'll ask the receptionist to see what kind of person she is.

「Fujino-sama, is it? Yes, she's registered as an adventurer but... Although I'm only able to say what kind of person she is, nevertheless, will that be alright?」

「Aah, that's no problem.」

「Understood. Sakura Fujino-sama is an adventurer that registered two months ago. She has black eyes and black hair, her height is short, she has an appearance of an 8 year old girl. Ah, this is a secret from the person herself okay?⁶ Although she has an appearance of a little girl, she meets the rule of being an adult to be an adventurer⁷. Her commission achievement rate is high, and her evaluation within the guild is also high. This is all I'm able to tell you.」

「I see, thanks.」

I said my thanks and left the reception.

Although I had a poker face on the surface, my mind is filled with astonishment.

EEH!? An adult of this world, if I remember correctly, is 15 years old right!? Is

there only a two year difference between us!?⁸ No, perhaps, she's older than me!!? SERIOUSLY!?

It was surprising information. I thought for sure she was an elementary school student, or a junior high school student at the most.

Aah, but if I considering the situation at that time, I might be older.

After reconsidering, I searched for the next informant.

Maybe it's because of the time, but the only person inside the guild was a female adventurer.

Let's try asking that lady next.

「Excuse me, I'd like to hear a little bit regarding someone but..... do you know of a black-haired black-eyed little girl?」

Maybe she's waiting for someone, I tried calling out to her who was sat on a chair doing nothing.

「n? What...? You want to hear about Sakura? You bastard, why do you want to hear about Sakura?」

She suddenly observed me with her sharp eyes, so I arranged a suitable reason with a poker face even though I was surprised.

「I heard it from a rumor. 'Although she's a little girl, she's an adventurer', they said. In addition, it seems the guild also values her well, so I thought I'd like to know what type of person she was for once.」

Although the lady in front of me glared at me for a short while, she suddenly averted her eyes at the end.

「.....Alright then. You don't seem to have evil intentions. Well then, I'll tell you. Sakura is small and cute... (omitted) ... like the previous time we joined up together as escorts...」

The lady continued speaking for roughly 30 minutes. The contents were details like how cute that girl was from beginning to end. Furthermore, it seems the story will still continue on.

When I was thinking of a way to escape, the companions that seemed to be who the lady was waiting for arrived.

「A—, sorry. We're late..... wait, what'cha doing?」

「mu, what, it's Meriana huh. Well, he asked about Sakura so I spoke a little about her.」

「Arara, ah, sorry ne. This kid, she always becomes like this when it comes to her you see. Don't worry about it.」

「Hey, I haven't finished speaking... Oi, I can still talk for 1 koku you know!?」

Let's leave this place while the woman she was waiting for keeps her busy. T-
This isn't running away you okay? This is a strategic withdrawal!

.....Rather, did she plan on speaking for another two hours?

I left the Adventurers' Guild while wiping off my cold sweat.

Lines

1. しかし彼女の言ったことが“全て嘘だ”と言うには.....彼女の態度はおかしいと思う。
2. “初步の魔術を使えるようになるまで、最低でも1年以上はかかる”と....。
3. まだ若いが落ち着いていて、知識のない俺は色々な面で頼りにしている。
4. 思えばこれまでの行動も、何かあればエレノアさんが意見をしていましたし、時には強引に行動を決めていたように思います。
5. たった2週間とはいえ、一緒に旅してきた仲間を疑うのは辛いのだろう。
6. あ、これ本人には内緒ですよ？
7. 見た目は小さな女の子ですが、成人はしていて冒険者としての規定は満たしています。
8. 僕と2コしか違わないのか！？

Chapter 64 ~ The Hero's Conclusion

Chapter 64 – The Hero’s Conclusion

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This time I'll ask the people in town.

First I'll try ask the people around the stores.

「Black-eyed black-haired? *Aah*, is it about Sakura-chan? She's a good child. I think of her like a grandchild you know.」

「Is it Sakura-chan? You, asking those sorts of things, you're not thinking of doing something weird to Sakura-chan right? If you do such a thing, I won't let you off you know?」

「Sakura-chan? *Aah*, I know her. It seems she's living by herself *na*. She occasionally comes here for shopping you see.」

「*Ahn?* *Aah*, that *jou-chan* huh. She really is an interesting kid. *Ah*, if you're an acquaintance, tell her to come make an appearance.」

「Yes? *Aah*, that girl, is it? Yeah, my magic tools that were called useless are selling like hotcakes thanks to her...」

「Sakura-chan? You, are you that child's acquaintance? Then take these with you too. *Aah*, there's no need to pay okay.」

「Sakura? You bastard, are you sniffing around for Sakura!?¹ *n?* You're not? *fumu*, so it's like that huh... If that's the case, I'll tell you about her. Sakura is... (omitted) ... *ah, oi!* Wait!」

Haa, haa... What, that last guy was?² He gave off the same impression as that lady from the Adventurers' Guild...

No, more importantly...

For the time being, although I went around various places and asked, there wasn't a single bad rumor. Rather, everyone is favourable towards her.

Did the King lie to me after all...?

At the very least, that girl shouldn't be the Demon King. If that's the case, it means the royal family sheltering the Demon King is also a lie.

For now, I'll return to the inn and consult... *oh?* Isn't that Eleanor over there? Who's the man that's together with her? *Mu*, it appears they've entered an alleyway. Why, in such a place...?

Somehow or another, I ended up following after the two people but...

But I wonder why they came to a back alley like this?

「.....If that's the case, does it mean this plan is a failure?」

「Yeah, I think the Hero has various doubts after hearing the words of the target *wa*. As long as he's not a complete idiot, he should realize he's being deceived. It'll be bad when that happens *wa*.」

「Understood. We'll eliminate him before that happens. I'll leave leading the Hero. The place will be the Great Western River. Okay?」

「Leave it to me. Will it be fine to carry it out tomorrow afternoon?」

「No problem.」

Ending with those words, Eleanor and the other man disappeared somewhere.

「.....What is this... I was being deceived after all huh...?」

My pathetic voice echoed though the empty back alley.

I wonder how much time has passed?

The surroundings have already begun to turn dark.

I sluggishly stood up and thought about what I should do from now on.

But my thoughts were jumbled up.

.....At this rate, I'll be killed tomorrow. Do I escape? But where to? In this unknown world, where could I escape to?

Ideas were rushing through my head, but not a single decent one came to mind.

When I was about to give up thinking, a voice echoed though the supposedly empty back alley.

「What are you doing in this sort of place? Uhm..... Takahashi-san?」

When I looked at the direction of the voice, that girl was standing there.

「.....Fujino-san? Why are you here?」

「I'm on my way back from shopping you see. This is a shortcut. Well, I rarely go through here though. Leaving that aside, what's going on? Your expression is as if it's the end of the world...」

The girl has a concerned expression.

It's somewhat strange to see that. To worry about someone who chased and aimed at your life just the other day... When I thought about that, I stopped caring about just about everything.³

「HAHAHA! It was just as Fujino-san said! I was being deceived! By that King, by Eleanor, by the country! It seems I'm going to be killed because I realized it. Summoned against my will, deceived, then killed in the end, what sort of shitty game is this...!?」

How frustrating. I, who was deceived without even doubting it.

How frustrating. I, who got carried away after being called a Hero.

How frustrating. I, who was going to kill a girl who worried about someone like me.

And, how hateful. Those guys who deceived me, who are going to kill me.

But there's probably nothing I can do with just me alone. I have no way to make a living even if I escape. Still, I don't feel I can win even if I fight.

Even though I'm called a Hero, I'm still a human after all. It's impossible for a single human to win against a country.

「So, what will you do? Are you going to wait to be killed just like that?」

Her voice echoed. It was a cold voice.

「What do you insist I do!? I have neither the ability to fight against a country, nor the power to make a living by myself! I can't return to Japan either, what do you insist I do!? Even I don't want to die! But, I can't think of anything...!」

I shouted. Although I knew it was futile even if I shouted, nevertheless, I couldn't help but shout.

Hearing me shout, she still calmly spoke.

「Then, shouldn't you find someone to rely on? Shouldn't you appeal to a place that can oppose a country and get help? You don't want to die, am I right?」

What did she say? Rely on? Where? A place that can oppose a country? Is there such a thing?

「Will you come with me? If you're interested, for our connection of being from the same town, I'll open a way for you, okay?⁴」

After saying only that, she turned her back towards me and began walking.

I didn't know what I should do, but since I couldn't think of anything else, I chased after her.

She bought me to a detached house.

She opened the door without any hesitation and entered inside the house.

I timidly followed along.

In the deserted house, she told me sit down.

A short time later, it appears that someone arrived.

The visitor was a man and turned up at the living room where I was sitting.

That man was one of the people who I asked in town about that girl.

「Sakura, he is...?」

The man looked at me, then asked her.

「A self-proclaimed Hero. Summoned by the country of Soutines, a resident of the same world as I. Takahashi-san, this is this country's Second Prince, Sedrim-sama. Won't you try speak to the Prince?」

Although the man twitched at the name of the country of Soutines, after the man's introduction was followed by mine, he stopped worrying about it.

Why is a prince of an entire country here in a private house like this!? Rather, why is Fujino-san acquainted with a prince!? Furthermore, they appear to be fairly close!!?

「*fumu*, summoned by the country of Soutines? If that's true, then it seems it'll become quite a problem... Being here means that he's not a danger, right?⁵ Is it Takahashi? If you have something to discuss, then shall I listen?」

I was more and more surprised at Prince Sedrim's words. If what Fujino-san said was true, there's hostility between the country of Soutines and this country. Even though a person of an enemy country is in front of him, he said I'm not a danger, furthermore, he said he'll listen to my story even with my unknown background. Could the person in front of me be quite an important person, or is he an idiot?

However, if..... if this prince hears my story and I can get him moved...⁶

Fujino-san's words comes to mind.

『Shouldn't you appeal to a place that can oppose a country and get help?』

Although I didn't understand at that time, I now realize 'a place that can oppose a country' means a another country.

If I'm able to request a hostile country's protection, I should certainly be able

to protect myself.

I've got nothing to lose. I resolved myself to speak.

Before I knew it, I placed the prepared tea to my mouth, and opened my mouth after I moistened my lips.

「The truth is...」

「So it was like that huh...」

After finishing explaining the situation, Prince Sedrim took a deep breath.

「So, what will you do, no, what do you want to do?」

His deep green eyes piercingly gazed at me.

「...If possible, we would like to be sheltered in this country. Me, and my three comrades, excluding Eleanor, who came along without knowing anything. At this rate, I think they'll be killed if they return to their country. Please, please save us!」

Although I'm still sitting on the sofa, I lower my head as much as possible.

I remained in that state for a while, but before long, I realized the stabbing atmosphere softened up.

「There's a condition. Takahashi, you'll enter the Chivalric Order and work for the sake of this country. The treatment of the other three people will decided according to their abilities. Though you won't be treated badly, it might not go according to what you guys expect.⁷ If that's still okay, I'll protect you.」

There's no way I'll have an objection. Not only will my life be saved, I'll obtain a foundation to live in this world. There's no way I'll reply with a no.

「Please! Although I won't know until I ask the other three people, I'll persuade them!」

Completely different from the despair a little while ago, I can see hope.

「Alright. However, don't speak to the others yet. It'll be bad if they even slightly suspect it. Takahashi, pretend you don't know anything and follow their lead tomorrow. Don't worry. I'll have some hidden people follow you guys, the

area around the great river will also be surrounded by sufficient people. You guys will be the so-called decoy. You're able to do that much, right?」

Even though it's somewhat dangerous, I understand it's necessary in order to protect my life. I vigorously nodded.

「Dinner, it's ready.」

With a perfect timing, I heard Fujino-san's voice.

「Let's go eat. Sakura's food is delicious you know?」

「Hey Prince, even though I was the one who made it?」

Seeing Prince Sedrim speaking with a smile and Fujino-san's dissatisfied expression, I unintentionally bursted into laughter.

「Pft, kukuku...」

「Hey, what are you laughing about?」

Fujino-san had an even more dissatisfied expression after seeing that.

Somehow, I feel it's been a long time since I've laughed honestly like that.

「Delicious! Did Fujino-san make of all these!?」

「That's right you know? Who else do you think made it?」

Fujino-san's cooking was absurdly delicious. Even in Japan, I've never eaten something with this sort of flavour. This, wouldn't this make money? The sort of dishes Fujino-san makes has very nostalgic flavour somehow.

「Oi, newcomer! Stop resting and do another!!」

Right now, I've entered the Chivalric Order and I'm doing my best as a newcomer. Although the training is harsh, everybody are all good-natured comrades.

The next day, as discussed with Prince Sedrim, Eleanor lead us to the great river because she had something important to talk about with us. Although there

were around twenty people there ambushing us, around fifty knights immediately turned up and defeated them and Eleanor.

The eyes of Adela, Fillice, and Matilda, the three people who weren't aware of the situation, was trying to decide what was right and wrong, but it seems they understood after I explained the circumstances.

And so, because of the lives of the three people were saved, and being deceived by their country, they decided to follow Prince Sedrim's instructions.

It seems Adela and Fillice became female knights and each made use of their specialty.

Matilda appears to have enrolled as a mage of this country, and started studying once more.⁸

I entered the Chivalric Order just as planned, and obtained a foundation to live in this world.

It's all thanks to Fujino-san. Because if we didn't meet Fujino-san at that time, we wouldn't be here right now.

After that, I only met Fujino-san once. Well, although we only had a short conversation, I was given a little bit of bread and food at that time. Fujino-san's cooking was delicious.

The day after I met Fujino-san, my training became even harsher for some reason..... was it my imagination?

「Don't stand there like an idiot! If this was a battlefield, you'd be dead instantly!」

「Yes! I'm sorry!」

I think I can happily do this.⁹

Lines

1. 貴様、サクラの事を嗅ぎまわっているのか！？
2. なんだ、最後のやつは？

3. そう考へると何もかもどうでもよくなってきた。
4. その気があるなら同郷のよしみで口を効いてあげますよ？」
5. ここにいると言うことは危険はないんだな？
6. しかし、もしも……もしもこの王子が俺の話を聞いて動いてくれるなら…。
7. 悪いようにはせんが、お前たちの望む通りにはいかないかもしれない。
8. マチルダはこの国の魔導師に弟子入りして、もう一度学び直すそうだ。
9. 俺はそれなりに楽しくやれていると思う。

Chapter 65 ~ I Am

~things~

katsuobushi ~ skipjack tuna that had been dried, fermented, and smoked



Chapter 65 – I Am

~

~

I am a cat. My name has yet..... *nya*—!!

W-What are you doing *nya!* Sto—, a—!!

Haa, haa...

To suddenly get thrown by someone, how terrible *nya*.

Ahem, once again, I'm a cat *nya*.

Although it hasn't been a year since I was born *nya*, I'm a splendid female cat *nya*!

I've recently been picked up by a master *nya*.

It's a small human girl with beautiful black hair and black eyes *nya*.

Master's hair is incredibly magnificent *nya*.

Even though master is still a child *nya*, she lives alone *nya*. How praiseworthy *nya*!

It was fate that master and I met *nya*!

Master gently gave me food when I was hungry and couldn't move *nya*.

I won't ever forget the flavour of the food at that time *nya*...

Today will be an introduction of a regular day of me and master *nya*.

「Nya~」

teshi teshi

The start of my day begins by waking master up.¹

Master wakes up early in the morning, just as the sun starts going up.

「Nya~」

「n.....aah, is it morning...? fua, ah~」

The first thing master does after waking up is change her clothes. *Eh?*
Everybody does that? No no, master exercises every morning *nya*. The first time
she changes is for that reason *nya*.

After master changes and washes her face, she immediately leaves *nya*.

She usually returns after around half a koku, I think *nya*?

I saw master off and rested for a little bit *nya*..... *mumble mumble*.

Wa! I overslept *nya*! Master has already returned *nya*!?

Master washed off her sweat in the bath after she returns from exercising. *Nya nya*, I hate baths *nya*...

Master immediately does the washing after coming out of the bath *nya*.

It's the perfect day to do the washing since today's weather is good *nya*.

Nya nya♪

「Be a good child and don't disturb me *ne*.」

U-Nya!? I'm dispirited *nya...*²

Once the washing is done, breakfast preparations are next *nya*. Master's meals are incredibly delicious *nya*. It's even more delicious than the food scraps from a first-class restaurant I ate when I was a stray.

「*Nya~*」

「Are you hungry? Please wait a bit longer *ne*.」

Nya nya, even though I planned to help, it was mistaken as begging *nya...*

「Sorry to keep you waiting. The meals ready?」

「*Nya~*」

U-Nya, as expected, master's meals are the best *nya!* Delicious *nya~!*

「Well then, I'll be going out, so please come back before dinner okay?」

Master goes out almost everyday *nya*. Though it seems to be work, for a child to work, how difficult *nyaa...* But there should be something I could help with *nya...*

The time when master leaves for work is my free time *nya*. Going out is fine, idling about is fine, I can do as I please *nya!*

Today's weather is also good so I'll go for a walk *nya*.

I used my personal secret path and headed outside *nya*.

Nya~, sunbathing on days like this is the best *nya~*.

sniff sniff..... *nnya?* This smell is...

「Oh, well isn't it Sakura-chan's cat. What? Do you want this fellow? Just one

okay...』

『Nya~』

I received a fish from the uncle from the fish store *nya!* I gave my thanks and decided to eat it in a quiet location *nya.*

Nnya, nnya, delicious fish nya~!

『Oh, well isn't this little kid eating something nice huh.』

All of a sudden, a voice echoed from behind me.

『You are..... the wild cat that's been running wild around here *nya!?*』

『Will you hand that over to me?』

ku..... my fish is being aimed at nya... But this fish is mine nya, I won't hand it over nya!

『I refuse nya!』

『Ah, hey, get back here!』

I dashed away with the fish in my mouth and escaped *nya.*

After checked if I was being followed after running for a while, I finally relaxed and placed the fish by my feet *nya...*

.....What *nya!?* There's only a portion of the fish left *nya!?*

It seems I bit too hard and it fell on the way here *nya...*

ku..... the dropped fish has surely been stolen by that wild cat nya... what a blunder nya...!

I'll take a nap since I'm frustrated *nya...³*

U-Nya... it's already evening nya... Did I oversleep nya?

Let's go back home and eat master's food *nya.*

I'm back *nya*~

The sun had already gone down when I returned home *nya*.

I took the secret path and entered the house, then went to master *nya*.

「*Nya*~」

「*Oh?* Where did you go today?」

「*Nya*~」

「*Mm?* You're awfully dirty *ne*. It won't be good if you don't take a bath *ne*.」

What *nya*!? I hate baths *nya*!

「*Ni*~」

I cry out in protest *nya*! I violently oppose *nya*!

「That's no good okay. I won't let you enter the futon if you're not clean okay?」

I also don't want that *nya*! The futon, it's warm and feels good *nya*.

To endure the bath I hate *nya*, or to endure the futon I love *nya*..... an ultimatum *nya*...

「If you obediently take a bath, I'll give you some dried bonito today.」

What was that *nya*!? That fluffy 'the more you chew it, the tastier it is' *katsuobushi nya*!?⁴ I'll take a bath with pleasure *nya*!!

「*Nya*~」

「*fufu*, I understand. Once dinner is finished, please don't struggle in the bath okay?」

For the sake of *katsuobushi*, I can endure through anything!

「Okay, here's the *katsuobushi*, just as promised.」

「*Nya*~」

Katsuobushi nya, katsuobushi nya♪

Delicious *nya*~!

In front of *katsuobushi*, I don't have to bother with that strange man who always comes at around dinner time *nya*.

That strange man turns up to dinner everyday *nya*.

I hate that strange man because he touches master excessively *nya*. The time master and I can touch gets reduced *nya*!⁵

When dinner finishes, master will clean up and the day will end *nya*.

After that, master will sleep after taking a bath *nya*.

I'll go in the futon first and...

「Now, it's time for a bath you know?」

U-Nya, like I thought, I hate baths *nya*!

「*Ni~*」

「That's no good. Since I paid the *katsuobushi* in advance. Or would you rather never have *katsuobushi* again?」

「*Ni~*」

I don't want that *nya*. There's no other way *nya*... I am a lady who keeps her promise *nya*! I'll do my best for the portion of *katsuobushi* I've already eaten *nya*!⁶

.....It's not like I was defeated by those words about *katsuobushi* earlier *nya*. Really *nya*!

「Hey, behave yourself. So dirty..... if you hate baths, then please don't get dirty.」

「*Ni~*」

The water! I'm being attacked by the water *nya*!

「You're clean now. Now, let's soak in the bath.」

「Ni~」

Drowning, I'm drowning *nya*—! *hafu*.....

「*fufu*, does it feel good?」

「*Fu-Nya*~」

It's strange *nya*, but master doesn't have any fur covering her body *nya*, I wonder if she's alright *nya*? Although master has a lot of fur on her head, wouldn't it be cold since she has no fur elsewhere *nya*? I think I'd be cold if I didn't have any fur though *nya*... Is it because it's hot right now, so it's fine without any fur *nya*? Or is it that every human doesn't have fur *nya*? Does fur grow when it's cold *nya*? Humans are strange *nya*...

「Now, shall we get out before we get dizzy?」

U-Nya, it feels so good I almost fell asleep *nya*.

「Let's wipe your body~」

Nya! I hate being scrubbed *nya*!

「Ni~」

「Hey, don't struggle...」

U-Nya nya, master will become weak if I lick here *nya*!

lick

「*Hyan*」

Now *nya*!

「Ah, hey! *Kya.*」

shake shake shake

「Aah, stop flinging water everywhere!」

That should be sufficient *nya*.

「Geez, aren't you still wet!」

Oh, I got caught again *nya*...

「Look, it'll be better with this.」

U-Nya~, I got scrubbed in the end nya...

「It's about time to sleep okay. Good night.」

「Nya~」

Our day ends with that *nya*. Good nyight *nya*...

tl note

the first line of the chapter and the chapter title is a reference to a book called
['I Am a Cat'](#)

Lines

1. ワタクシの一日の始まりは、ご主人様を起こすことから始まるにゃ。
2. うにゃっ！？しょんぼりにゃ...。
3. 悔しいのでこのまま不貞寝にゃ...。
4. あのふわふわで噛めば噛むほど味が出てくる鰹節がつくにゃ！？
5. ワタクシとご主人様の触れ合う時間が減るにゃ！
6. すでに食べた鰹節の分は頑張るにゃ！

Chapter 66 ~ Prince, Do Your Best (1)

Chapter 66 – Prince, Do Your Best (1)

~

~

Right now, I'm seriously troubled.

Eh? Who are you, you ask? I'm Sobule Kingdom's Second Prince, Sedrim Al Sobule. Remember it.

So, speaking of what I'm troubled about...

It was caused by what my mother, Aria, and the maid Chiffon, said a few hours ago.

Today I have little work, so I came to visit my mother because I had the time.

However, the timing was bad.

「Mother, it's Sedrim.」

When I knocked on my mother's private room and called out, I heard a response from inside.

「Sedrim? Perfect timing *wa*. Please enter.」

I was puzzled. It was also because mother personally responded rather than a maid, but I wonder what she means by perfect timing?

.....I have an bad feeling.

I should've obeyed my instincts at that time.

「Excuse me.」

However, the me at that time, without thinking, entered the room despite feeling something was out of place.

「Mother, how have you been?」

I first greeted mother, then noticed the members in the room.

「.....How come Aria and Chiffon are here...?」

Inside mother's private room, was my little sister Aria and the maid Chiffon.

No, Aria is still okay. It's not strange for a princess to visit the Queen's private room.

However, although Chiffon is a maid, she should belong in the guest room.
Why is Chiffon here?

The bad feeling I had before entering the room swelled up.

「I called these two people. Sedrim, we were speaking about you, you see.」

An alarm bell saying 「escape」 rang inside my head.

「.....What happened to the other maids?」

Right, there's no other maids except for Chiffon in this room. Both mother's and Aria's maids weren't here.¹ I can imagine it's because these three people are having a secret chat. Furthermore, it's about me...?

「For maids, it's fine with Chiffon alone. I made the others withdraw wa.」

.....This place is dangerous.

Coming to that conclusion, I immediately chose an excuse to leave the room.

「Well then, mother, since I've had a look at your face, please excuse me.」

I said that and tried quickly leaving.

.....I tried, but...

「Wait.」

My body, that was heading towards the door, suddenly stopped because of her unexpected forceful tone.

「Sit down.」

Clad with her Queen's majesty, quietly, I reluctantly sat down on an empty seat in the unopposable atmosphere.²

A cup filled with tea was immediately placed in front of me.

「You have time right? Since you're here, I'd like to hear it from you directly.」

I completely gave up at this point in time. Mother guessed that my work today had finished. No, I understand even if I had work remaining, she wouldn't have any intention to let me go.

Both Aria and Chiffon waited for mother's words before saying anything.

「I'll ask you straight forwardly. Sedrim, when will Sakura become my daughter?」

I didn't understand what was being said.

No, I heard the words but...

While I stared at mother's face, I needed a short time to understand those words.

「.....Just now, what was that?」

I finally let out those short words.

「I asked, when will Sakura, become your bride.」

I wished I misheard.

However, the second time she said it was clearer than the first, words which couldn't be misheard was pointed towards me.

「.....I don't have plans?」³

Right, let alone plans, there hasn't been any progress yet. Even I've imagined that scene once or twice, no, over three or four times.

Sakura is a small girl who came from another world.

A girl with black eyes and black hair, which is unusual in this country. And she has a small stature with an appearance of a 10 year old child. Despite that, her taijutsu is wonderful, there should be few men in the Chivalric Order who could match her.

In addition to that, there's what that girl calls 'previous life's memories'. It's said it's from this country's Royal Court Mage who was assassinated 25 years

ago.⁴

Recently, a certain incident happened and she discovered how to use sorcery as well.

Furthermore, she's currently been bestowed a sacred treasure from God, and has also defeated a dragon with that sacred treasure, she may be what's called a strong adventurer.⁵

She's that sort of girl, but actually, her cooking is delicious and homely, although her personality is a little rebellious, her appearance is cute like a doll and the occasional smile she displays is remarkable.

And the appearance of her small restless body is cute, like a small animal.

Although she's met mother and Aria on one occasion when I asked for a large favour, I realized the two people were extremely pleased with Sakura during that time.⁶ I'm also aware that Chiffon very much loves Sakura like a younger sister.

With these sorts of people gathered like this, does it mean they discussed those sorts of things...?

「No plans? You had as much as two months worth of time, what were you doing? Even though you visit Sakura's house every day, are you saying nothing has happened yet?」

「But mother, me and Sakura aren't like...」

「Be quiet. I understand your feelings. In that case, stop hesitating forever, and how about doing a manly approach?」

「That's right *wa*, onii-sama. I'm aware that onii-sama is gentle, and I know that you're waiting for Sakura-chan to have feelings for you, but it's necessary to have a forceful approach at times, you know? I think women desire a gentleman who has a forceful approach *wa*.⁷」

「However, Your Highness, methods which would hurt Sakura-sama won't be permitted, so please remember that.」

As if to prevent my objections, the three people each showered me with their

opinions.

But, I'm merely just saying that and have no intentions to.

.....Whether its effective or not is another matter.

「Mother, Aria, and Chiffon as well, I'm happy that you've thought about us, but this is my and Sakura's problem. I have my own ways of doing things.」

「Be quiet. Even if we leave it to you, was there not any sort of progress in these two months? The ball, which we especially cooperated with, didn't show any results either...⁸」

「But that's...」

「Objections are not allowed. Do you hear? Obtain results within three days. If you don't show any results..... you understand, right?」

「Haa~」

I let out a sigh from just recalling that.

What do they want me to do with just three days...

Even I'd like to be a little more intimate with Sakura if I was able to. And sooner or later, those small lips and white skin, with these hands...

The girl's body, which I've seen several times, floats in my mind.

「Sedrim! I've heard you know, you've finally decided on a fiancée!?」

「UWAA! E-Elder brother, please knock!」

「I knocked many times. *n?* What is it, your face is red you know.」

「It's nothing! Leaving that aside, what is it? Fiancée, you say...」

My heart is pounding, because I was suddenly called out to when I was having strange thoughts.

Calm down, Sedrim. Pull yourself together...

「*fu*. Mother and them said it. Sedrim should have a fiancée before long, they said. Of course, it's about Sakura right? I approve. I'll be able to eat delicious dishes if she becomes my little sister *na*.」

「.....Those people! We've yet to have that sort of relationship. Therefore that story is a lie.」

I'm having a headache. Is this what women are?

「*fu*, 'yet', which means you're interested right? If you don't quickly push her down, other men will snatch her away you know?」

「Please leave our matters alone already! I'll be going out now, so excuse me!」

Even elder brother is following along mother and them... What do they want me to do...?

Since it became the right time while I was being troubled, I tried going to Sakura's house, but...

「There's no response huh...」

I tried calling out several times, but there was no response.

「The front door is open, but there's no response... It can't be, did something happen to Sakura's body?」

I hurriedly opened the front door and entered inside.

「Sakura! Where are you!? Are you okay!?」

She wasn't in either the kitchen or living room...

gatan

「Mm, over there? Sakura?」

I concealed my steps and approached the direction of the sound.

「Nya~」

At that moment, something small suddenly jumped out.

I unconsciously stopped moving at the next thing which jumped out.

「Wait up! Ah, Prince, please catch that..... cat?」

The other party also saw me and suddenly stopped moving.

It's Sakura.

It's the girl who I was searching for earlier. There's no mistake.

But that appearance is...

Did she take a bath? Her skin is flushed with her stark naked appearance, her pink dyed skin unexpectedly brings out the girl's beauty.⁹

And from her glossy black hair, maybe because it hasn't dried yet, drops of water are coming off, which eventually drips down along her body.¹⁰

A gulping sound rang out from my throat.

「Ah, Sakura...? Uhm, This is, uh....., you didn't answer even when I called out, and the door was opened as well...」

I somehow spoke those words with my dried lips while admiring that appearance.

「Ah..., I'm sorry about that. I was taking a bath so...」

Does Sakura not understand the situation? She replied to my words while forgetting to cover her body.

「Nya~」

Suddenly, something by my feet cried out. So this is the identity of that thing which jumped out earlier...

「This cat is...?」

「Ah, I picked it up. It seems to be somewhat attached...」

「Nya~」

「I see...」

「Right...」

「Nya~」

A silent atmosphere drifts through the air.

「So..... if you don't cover yourself with something soon.... I'm worried about

where to look....」

Feeling that I couldn't endure the situation, I unintentionally said that sort of thing.

Normally you would avert your eyes before saying that...

But maybe she understood her current condition, Sakura's face gradually dyed red.

「.....KYAAAAAA!! Please turn around without looking!」

As if that scream finally undid her stiffness, I hurriedly turned around.

「S-Sorry!」

I somehow spoke those short words and escaped to the living room.

The meal afterwards lingered with an awkward atmosphere without any conversation.

Haa... Is this sort of thing okay on the first day...?

I think the remaining two days will be quite difficult to make any progress.

I trudged back towards the castle while thinking that.

Lines

1. 本来なら何人もいるはずの母上付きの侍女も、アリアの侍女もいないのだ。
2. 王妃の威厳を纏わせた、静かだが逆らえない雰囲気にしぶしぶ空いている席へと腰を下ろした。
3. 「.....予定はありますか？」
4. それに加えて少女の言う、前世の記憶。それは25年前に暗殺されたこの国の宮廷魔導師だという。
5. しかも今は神から神器を賜り、その神器を以って竜殺しも行ったという、強者の冒険者でもある。
6. 一度無理を言って母上やアリアにも会わせたが、二人がその時にサクラの事を随分と気に入ったのもわかっている。

7. 女は殿方に強引に迫って欲しいと思うものですわ」
8. せっかく私達が協力した夜会も成果は上げられませんでしたし...」
9. 風呂にでも入っていたのだろうか、一糸まとわぬ姿で肌は上気し、ピンク色に染まつた肌は少女とは思えない美しさを醸し出している。
10. そして艶やかな黒髪からは、乾ききっていないのか滴が落ち、その内の幾筋かが肌を伝っていた。

Chapter 67 ~ Prince, Do Your Best (2)

Chapter 67 – Prince, Do Your Best (2)

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The following day, it was hard to prevent myself from remembering yesterday's events as much as possible.

However, when I occasionally end up accidentally remembering, my surroundings would tilt their heads in confusion from my blushing.

Haa... What sort of face should I make when I meet her today...

Her face appears in my mind.

Her perfectly round, large, and slightly alluring black eyes. Her thin, yet emphasized eyebrows. Her small nose and cute lips. The well placed parts of her small face, which blooms like a flower when she smiles at me.¹

Supported by her slender neck, and her small shoulders which seems like it could be broken with an embrace.

Underneath that is her modest chest emphasising its smallness, on the left and right of its centre...

ku, what am I thinking about!?

I shook my head side to side and erased the picture from my mind.

「*Haa...*」

I let out a sigh for the however many Nth time today.

At this rate, aren't I just like a boy who's inexperienced with girls...

I devoted myself to working in order to completely forget about it.

「.....Prince, welcome.」

「...Aah.」

But time passed by on its own accord.

The time for dinner arrive.

I entered her house while feeling awkward.

I had the opinion that I shouldn't have come if it was awkward, but that option couldn't be chosen. Because without this, our interactions are equal to almost none.

Only the clanking sounds of tableware could be heard.

Unable to bear that atmosphere, I somehow opened my mouth.

「.....Mother and Aria said they wanted to see you, you know. *Aah*, Chiffon as well *na*.」

To chose this topic from all the ones I could've chosen...

I restrained myself from nearly prostrating and continued eating.

「The Queen-sama and them? However, I shouldn't be able to meet royalty that easily, right? *Aah*, could you tell Chiffon-san to please drop by again?」

Sakura gave a normal response. With this, the conversation has somehow continued.

「*Aah*, I'll convey that to Chiffon. Well, she's busy after all *na*. But saying you shouldn't meet royalty that easily, don't you meet with me?」

「The Prince is different you know.」

Mu, so does that mean I'm special?

My heart boils with excitement from thinking that. Could Sakura also think that I'm special?

「After all, doesn't the Prince meet me on your own accord? Visiting the royalty's side from my side isn't very reasonable you know.」

.....So it's like that huh. I'm an idiot for being pleased for even a moment.

「It's not that much of a big deal though. Since this time, mother's side wants to meet you...」²

「Even so. Rather, the royalty of this country should maintain more of their dignity.」

「.....Do you think, it's undignified?」³

「At the very least, they wouldn't eat dinner here *ne.*」

「.....I see.」

With that, the conversation ended.

However, the awkwardness like yesterday has disappeared..... I think.

Let's leave it at this for today. Victory or defeat will be decided tomorrow.

「Prince, welcome.」

「Aah, I'll be relying on you for today as well.」

Compared to yesterday, there wasn't any awkwardness when we met
Alright, I might be able to proceed today.

I was thinking of ways to bring up a conversation while eating dinner.

But it came from the other side just at that time.

「Prince, what's the matter? You've been restless since a little while ago, but...
Was it not delicious?」

A conversation was started from Sakura's side. A chance! (*CHANSU DA!*)

「No, it's nothing. Your cooking is delicious as usual you know. I just remembered a little something.」

Sakura looked at me puzzlingly.

「I said it yesterday as well, right? Mother and them said they wanted to see you. I was thinking, 'if it's difficult to meet because they're royalty then', *uh*, 'if you also became royalty, it would be easy to meet them, wouldn't it?' ...」⁴

「*Ha?*」

Bewilderment appeared on Sakura's face.

Alright, I'll keep at it and say it!

「Well, mother said it. 'I want Sakura as my daughter', she said. If Sakura became my mother's daughter, wouldn't you not have to worry about things like royalty?」

The degree of bewilderment on Sakura's face increased. It seems she's unable to guess my intention.

「That's... I'll become the Queen-sama's adopted child, is what that means?」

「It's slightly different but..... the result would be that you would become my mother's daughter, I guess?」

「.....Certainly, I don't have any family in this world, but... Even so, to become the royalty's adopted child is...」

Mu, being like this, it wasn't conveyed successfully huh.

「No, just becoming an adopted child isn't a way to become royalty though... For example, *uh*..... you could say even getting married would make you a daughter, right? Hasn't Sakura thought of something like marriage? Speaking of 15, that's an age where it's possible for marriage as well, right?」

「Marriage, is it?I haven't thought about that either *ne*. Look, don't I have this sort of appearance? I think I lack the charm of a woman you know *ne*. I think something like marriage is impossible for me who's like this. Besides, I'm doing my best to live right now after all. *Aah*, I also have this child *ne*.」

Saying that, she looked at the cat by her feet.

「There's no such thing, you know? I think..... *uh*, Sakura is cute, I believe you can get married you know?」

I stretched out my hand and placed it on top of Sakura's hand and continued speaking.

Sakura reacted with a twitch for an instant, but didn't say anything.

「Besides..... you'll get married sooner or later, right? Since that's the case, wouldn't it be fine if it's slightly earlier? Furthermore, being married would also bring stability to your life... Therefore, like with me, how about—「*Nya~*」」

A cry echoed out as if it was trying to interrupt my final words.

「Ara? Aah!? Geez, to be this dirty... Aah, these won't come off if you don't take a bath huh?」

「Ni~」

Her hand slipped through my hand and began taking care of the cat by her feet.

「Ah, sorry. what did you say earlier?」

「.....No, it wasn't important so don't worry about it.」

「Is that so? But..... I still haven't thought about marriage yet. It's still a bit further in the future before I would think of those sorts of things *ne.*」

She continued to take care of the cat after saying that.

I looked up at the sky on the way back to the castle.

The night road was illuminated by the moon.

「I did my best *na...*」

My monologue vanished off into the sky.

I let out a large sigh and proceeded towards the castle.

「Sedrim, how was it?」

The following day, when the promised three days had passed, mother brought along Aria and Chiffon and turned up at my office.

「Mother...」

「Judging from that appearance, there doesn't seem to be any progress, am I right?」

I was left with nothing to say from those straightforward words.

If I were to make an excuse, I think I really did my best.

「As expected, it's impossible for oni-sama to do it within three days *wa ne.*」

「Did we not understand that from the beginning? We must work out a different strategy here.」

「That's right *ne*. I wonder that sort of plan would be good next?」

「To have His Highness use it..... as expected, would it not have a high chance of failure?」

「That's right *wa ne*... Mother, Chiffon. We will work out a new strategy once we return to our room okay.」

I saw off the three people who left like a storm after they said what they wanted to say.

「.....Perhaps, I'm just being played?」

Realizing the truth and thinking about the 「new strategy」 the three people said earlier which will befall me, I let out a sigh.

「*Haa~*... I'm begging you, please leave me alone...」

author's note

Because I was told the Prince gave something like a gross or perverted impression, I thought to back up the Prince so I wrote this, but... Oh? I feel his evaluation has become even worse.
In the end, the Prince did his best, right?

The Prince's passive skills

Hetare: 8/10 (7 > 8)

Lucky Lecher: 2/10

Cat's skills

Loyalty [Passive]: 2/10

Guard [Active]: 2/10

感想で王子が“キモイとか変態とか言っていたので、王子のフォローをと思って書いたのですが...。

あれ？評価がひどくなる気がする。

最後の方、王子頑張ってますよね？

王子のパッシブスキル

ヘタレ 8/10

ラッキースケベ 2/10

猫のスキル

忠誠「パッシブ」 2/10

護衛「アクティブ」 2/10

Lines

1. 小さな顔に行儀よく並んだパーティが、花が綻ぶように私に微笑みかける。
2. よりにもよって出て来た話題がこれとは……。
3. 「それほど大層な物でもないがな。今回などは母上達の方から会いたいと言っているわけだし…」
4. 「……威厳、無いと思うか？」
5. 王族だから会いにくいなら、その、サクラも王族になれば会いやすくなるのかなと…」

Chapter 68 ~ Making Sweets

Chapter 68 – Making Sweets

~

~

Three months have passed since I've arrived in this world.

It was only June when I arrived in this world, but already, it will be October from tomorrow. The heat during the day has eased up too, and the feeling of the morning and evening breezes have become chilly.

Oh yes, thinking about it now, it's about this world's calendar.

One month has thirty days, and one year has twelve months. There are six days in one week and five weeks in one month.

And so one year has 365 days. Although thirty days × twelve months equals to 360 days, December alone has thirty-five days.

Because the 31st to 35th of December is like a preparatory period for the purpose of welcoming the New Year, most businesses at this period of time will be on vacation, and everyone will be doing preparations to enter the New Year.

And so, once January begins, there will be a festival to welcome the New Year for a period of three days from the 1st of January.

From what I know, it's the same in every country and there will be large crowds everywhere during this period.

And, the three day period from the 4th to the 6th of January will be tidying up the festival and such, and celebrations of the New Year with relatives.

Shops and so forth basically open after the 7th.

Also, this world, rather, this country has exactly four seasons. Although I say that, it's not as refined as it is in Japan though.¹

If you roughly look at it, there isn't a great difference from Japan. Spring brings a gentle climate while gradually warming up, and summer brings harsh sunlight that makes people sweat every day. Autumn brings abundant harvests in the hills and fields, and winter also snows.

However, different from Japan, although it's summer, because the level of humidity isn't that high, it isn't as unpleasant.

.....But on the other hand, there are days where the highest temperature goes over 40°C though. (*104°F*)

Snow piles up considerably in winter. The coldest days drop down to -10°C, I think. (*14°F*) In the area I lived in Japan, even if it snowed, it rarely piles up, for arguments sake, even if it did pile up, it would be around several centimetres in an area. Because of that, the winter in this country sure is somewhat enjoyable.

.....Who was it? The one who thought 'similar to a child' just now?

Sensing that sort of autumn, today, I'll be diligently making sweets inside my house.

No, it's not as a hobby, you know? Well I'm sampling them as well, but... This is a commission. I was requested by name, it's a commission that wants me to make sweets. And the client was, surprisingly, the First Prince, Prince Edwill.

If we're to speak of why the sudden commission to make sweets appeared, I was told that it was because Prince Edwill's fiancée was coming and she wants to eat delicious sweets, is what it seems.²

If it's making sweets, isn't there an exclusive patissier in the royal castle? -Was what I thought, but according to Prince Edwill, 「From what I know, the one who makes the tastiest sweets is you.」 is what it seems.

On the day I heard that sort of thing, even I felt the heat, you know? Right, it's me who's answering the expectations, isn't it!

So right now, I'm thinking about various things to make.

If I calmly think about it, would someone of royalty of a foreign country eat something that was made by someone like me? There's that problem, but most

likely since it's regarding that person of royalty, I'm sure he hasn't considered it either *ne*.

Don't I usually feed the Prince, you say? The royalty of this country is fine, you see. Since the King goes to the town's bars and drinks until morning *ne*. Even the Prince comes on his own accord to eat, so even if anything happens, it's not my responsibility.It's not, right?

Surprisingly, when I asked about Prince Edwill's fiancée, he praised her about things like the kind of personality she had, or the kinds of hobby she had, or how cute she was, while slightly blushing. No, I only wanted to hear about what kinds of sweets she likes though.... He's madly in love *ne*. Rather, it's gross for an adult man to be embarrassed like that, you know? Since it's pleasing to the eyes, shall I take a picture? But three hours for just that was surely unnecessary, right?

So because of that, I'm currently using apples to bake an apple pie.

As for the other seasonal fruits, there are grapes, pears and chestnuts, I could also use things like sweet potatoes to make sweets.

U~n, perhaps I should make jelly with the grapes *ne*... If I'm not mistaken, there should be gelatine...

Let's make the chestnuts into a mousse and have it become a cake.

Would the pears be good as a compote? Because I've heard it goes well with alcohol.

As for sweet potatoes, there's glazed sweet potatoes and sweet potatoes fries, so you could say I major in sweet potatoes... (*note: a bad pun, explanation at the bottom*) As for me, I like roasted sweet potatoes the most *ne*. Eh? My preferences don't matter?

Well, you see, there's no time you know? The commission was received yesterday evening and the deadline is tomorrow morning, what's going on with this, I wonder?³ No, the reward is good though, okay? If it's just an apple pie then there isn't a problem, but... The contents of the commission were 「Over

five types of sweets made with seasonal fruits」 you know... In addition to that, it's portions for ten people. Thanks to that, I've been very busy since this morning you see.

「Nya~」

「Aah, I'm sorry. Are you hungry? I get you some food immediately, okay?」
Eru, my pet cat, clung around by my feet.

I picked up this cat around one month ago, she's a white kitten with light brown patches on its tail and on one of its ears.

Although she didn't have a name in the beginning, because it seems pitiful to just be called 'cat' forever, I named her 「Eru」. Though at first, I thought: 'let's call her 「Rice Cake」'. Well, it might've been by chance, but this child curls up into a ball when she takes a nap, you see. At that moment, when I saw her pure white and round body with a small light brown ear attached to it, I thought she resembled a rice cake that were sold in stores. The brown part looked like a shop's branding... But as expected, because I felt sorry for her, I tried calling her 「Elizabeth」, but this child disliked it very much... Because of that, I chose 「Eru」. Eh? Its meaning? There isn't particularly one, you know?

I had a slightly late lunch together with my only roommate, no, roomcat?

「Nya~」

「Ah, hey. That's no good, you know? Because it'll be bad for Eru's body if you eat this.」

I chided Eru, who approached the baked apple pie with her nose.

Although she's a cat, Eru is intelligent. It's as if she understands the things I say. Even now, with just a warning, she obediently parted from the apple pie.

「Since I've still got things to do, please go take a stroll or something, Eru.」

After saying that, Eru left with a meow and briskly trotted away.

「Now then, let's quickly start making.」

While rolling up my sleeves, I resumed making the sweets.

Sweets were being made together with the sounds of utensils clattering and the engulfing heat of the stove and oven.

While smoothly boiling the grapes, the sponge for the cake was made at the same time, and the preparations for the chestnuts and pears were done in my spare time.

Since it's a portion for ten people, just the ingredients are a considerable amount items.

Aah, I have neither the sufficient time or hands or utensils! This is indeed a situation where I would even like the help from a cat. (*note: a saying which means extremely busy.*)

Well, though it's impossible to have Eru assist *ne*.

.....Nn? A guest, is it? Good grief, at this hectic time...

「Ye~s, I'm coming now!」

Who is it, I wonder?

「Yes, who is it?」

「Me me, it's me.」

.....This voice is...

「Me me-san, is it? I'm sorry, but because I don't know anyone like that, please leave.」

Even if I wasn't busy and running out of time, I don't have the time to go along with this malignant joke. (*note: explained at the bottom*)

「Wait! It's Takahashi! I'm acting as His Highness Prince Edwill's messenger!」

「Then please say that from the beginning. I'm busy with that Prince's commission over here. I don't have the time for stupid jokes.」

The person who visited was the former self-proclaimed Hero, Takahashi-san. Currently, he should be in the Chivalric Order.

「There shouldn't be any 'me me' scams nowadays. So, what business do you have?」

「Aah, I was told to come and ask about the progress with the sweets.」

「You especially came here for something like that...? Please report this to Prince Edwill: according to the commission, come take them tomorrow morning. Therefore, please don't make me go through any unnecessary troubles. Aah, also, please relay this to Prince Sedrim: please don't come today. Because I don't have the time to play around with the Prince.」

「Alright. I'll convey it to them.Is really it that difficult?」

「Yes, it's difficult that even the time I'm spending here is precious. Therefore, please don't take up my time with trivial matters.」

I unconsciously put on a severe tone, but it's a fact that I'm busy. Even if I do it well, everything will be over if its late, don't you think? When I think about the cleaning afterwards...

I let out a sigh.

Although the troubles don't mean anything if it's for myself to eat, that doesn't include when it comes to commissions. Besides, this time it's for a princess of a foreign country to eat. My spirit changes too depending on how it's used.⁴

.....I respect all the patissiers who does this as a job. Making them just as a hobby is plenty enough for me.

I bid farewell to the former self-proclaimed Hero, Takahashi-san, and once again resumed making sweets.

「Whew... For now, I've done all I can do for today with this, yeah?」

Saying that, I wiped off the sweat from my forehead.

The current time is just before 10 o'clock in the evening. Should I say as expected? Or rather, just like I thought, it had taken a considerable amount of time.

In particular, it was the cake which took time.

The sponge cake was baked and cooled, it was then cut into two while chestnut cream and boiled chestnuts were placed between them, furthermore, fresh cream was spread on the exterior and chestnut mousse was added on top...

A whole two of them were prepared, you know? Entirely hand made...

Well, together with those hardships, the sweets which were made today are lined up on top of the table.⁵

Three apple pies with cinnamon, two whole chestnut mousse cakes, and ten people's portions of pear compote and sweet potatoes.

Taking this opportunity, I also tried making a little bit of plum brandy jelly as an experiment for summer. Well, since this isn't a seasonal item, it's just a bonus *ne*. Once I place them into boxes later, tomorrow morning I'll just need to pack the jelly and the preparations will be done.

I carefully placed them one by one into boxes. I then placed those into a preservation magic tool.

After I finished packing everything, I finally took a breather.

.....After that is, the cleaning up of the large amount of dirty kitchen utensils *ne*.

It seems I won't be able to go to bed for a little while...

The bad potato pun – Glazed sweet potato is written as ‘大学芋’, ‘大学’ means university, and ‘芋’ is potato, so she's majoring sweet potato in the potato university, hahaha... (*ty to Daily and Guro for the help~*)

So why is glazed sweet potato written like that? Because it's a snack popularised from universities.

In the fall, many universities throughout Japan have big festivals called 大

学祭 *daigaku-sai*, meaning university festival, or 文化祭 *bunnkasai*, Culture Festival. They are basically street fairs held on campus, with lots of food and fun stalls, concerts, even ghost houses and amusement rides. Many of the big ones also hold concerts in which top Japanese singers and bands appear. Daigaku Imo, which means University Potato, are candies sweet potatoes, a sweet and slightly savory snack that is often served at university festivals in Tokyo.

The snack itself probably originated as a cheap, calorie-rich, affordable snack sold to cash-poor students around universities in Tokyo around the turn of the 20th century. The idea for deep frying and then sugar coating potatoes most likely came from similar snacks in Chinese cuisine.

– *justhungry*

The “it’s me it’s me” scam – For those who don’t know, this is a scam often targeted towards the elderly where someone calls up someone and claims to be their relative and saying “it’s me it’s me” to swindle money off them

Lines

1. と言っても、日本のような風流な物ではないのですが。
2. どうして急にお菓子作りの依頼なんかが来たのかと言うと、なんでもエドウィル王子の婚約者が来られるそうなので美味しいお菓子を食べさせたい、ということらしいのです。
3. 依頼を受けたのが昨日の夕方で期限が明日の朝ってどういうことですかね？
4. 気の使いようも変わってきます。
5. まあ、その苦労もあってテーブルの上には今日作ったお菓子が並んでいます。

Chapter 69 ~ Sweets and Tea Party

Chapter 69 – Sweets and Tea Party

The next morning, I, who had finished breakfast and packed the jelly into a box, was troubled about a certain matter.

「How should I carry these...?」

Two boxes of cakes, three boxes of apple pies, and boxes with compote, sweet potatoes and jelly placed inside them were lined up.

「.....I'm sure they'll collapse inside a rucksack, right?」

If it's in a rucksack magic tool, then it's possible to place everything inside it, but nothing can be done about them collapsing inside the rucksack. Although even if they don't get crushed after cramming them inside the rucksack, the shaking is another matter. The best method would be to carry them by hand, but since there's the distance from my house to the castle, it would take a good amount of time to carry this amount of boxes.

However, those worries were settled before long.

「Heey.」

I heard the voice of a visitor coming from the front door.

When I went out to look, the former self-proclaimed Hero, Takahashi-san, was there.

「I was told to come meet you by His Highness Prince Edwill. He said "there are probably many packages, so load them onto a carriage in order to transport them."」

Ooh, that's surprisingly considerate, isn't it?

Taking advantage of Prince Edwill's good will, I decided to load everything onto the carriage.

「Please don't shake them if possible, alright? Because it will be the end if they get crushed.」

I loaded the boxes into the carriage one by one while warning Takahashi-san.

The cakes in particular need to be carefully transported. The other boxes will more or less be okay even if they get shaken, but it will only be bad for the cakes.

After all the boxes were loaded, I got onto the carriage and we travelled towards the castle. Of course, the boxes of cakes were on top of my knees and Takahashi-san's.

The carriage travelled along the Royal Capital's stone pavement while shaking from time to time.

When we arrived at the castle, Prince Edwill came out to personally meet us. Prince Sedrim also came along. While we kept our greetings within moderation, the boxes of sweets were unloaded¹. It seems they are to be taken to the kitchen. And so, it appears they'll be kept in there temporarily, and be taken out when it's time for tea.

It seems Prince Edwill's fiancée will arrive just past noon and will get in touch.

.....If that's the case, I wonder why it wasn't fine to just deliver the goods before noon?

I thought that, but I'll accept that at the time the commission was made, I'm sure they couldn't know when the princess would arrive. With the help of the princes and the others, all the boxes were carried to the kitchen.

「Hey, what did you make?」

Though I'm sure he's curious, the fun is in seeing it yourself.

「You'll know when you eat them. That's also a way of enjoying it.」

I avoided it by saying that.

When I tried leaving since the goods were delivered, I was detained by Prince Edwill.

「Fu, I can't let you go back yet. I'll have you accompany me until it's time for

tea.]

Pardon? Why must I attend a tea party for royalty? Furthermore, one that even a princess of a foreign country will be in!?

「Fu, there's a reason. There isn't anyone to explain to the princess when she asks about the sweets, right? That would be a problem.]

Mu, I wonder how he understood that I disliked the idea of it?

「Fu, because it was immediately shown on your face. Things like what you're thinking, I can immediately understand, you see.]

Muu, even if you say that now... Does it really show on my face that much?

「Fu, therefore, come inside the castle. The commission won't be recognized as completed until the tea party has ended, you see.]

Uwa, to use the commission as a shield, what a coward! Wasn't the commission just to make sweets!?

「I'll listen if you have a complaint, you know? However, I'll only listen *na*.]

Grr! Shall I mix something just in Prince Edwill's portion!?

「If you do something like that, I'll replace it with your portion *na*.]

H-How frustrating! Hell, I won't make any more bread either!

I helplessly remained in the castle and comfortably passed the time.

Although I say that, I only talked with Chiffon-san *ne*.

Princess Aria and the Queen seem to be busy with the princess' welcoming.

It appears Chiffon-san isn't that busy since she's not in charge of the guest rooms. Rather, it's because I'm currently in the guest room, but...

But if it was going to be like this, I should have bought along something like cookies *ne*...

After waiting over five hours for lunch, I was finally called.

Following the guide, we headed towards the venue(?) of the tea party.

The venue was in a courtyard, I wonder if those are roses in the circumference? There's something like large hedges that were grown, and a large table was placed at the centre.

And there were several people on the seats already.

There are four people, the King, the Queen, the Prince and Princess Aria. I am the fifth person. The ones left are Prince Edwill and the Princess...?

I went to sit down on the seat I was recommended while being puzzled.

.....Huh? My role was to explain, right? Why did I sit down?

When I tilted my head to the side, Prince Edwill arrived together with a lady by his side. I'm sure that person is his fiancée since they are holding hands.

Because the King and the others stood up, I also rose from my seat.

「Sorry to have kept you waiting. Since there are people here meeting for the first time, allow me do the introductions. This is my fiancée, the second princess of the country of Sandra, Princess Abelia Asa Sandra.」

The lady next to Prince Edwill pinched the skirt of her dress and gave her greetings.

「I am Abelia Asa Sandra. Please treat me well.」

She's a beautiful lady, with mild bluish silver hair. Are her eyes blue, I wonder? Her height is around 175cm, her chest..... isn't it almost as big as Princess Aria's? Heh, as expected, she was chosen for her chest *ne*.

While I was sulking, it appears the introductions had proceeded.

「.....Finally, although she isn't royalty, is Sakura Fujino, who made the sweets for Princess Abelia this time.」

Oops, is it my turn?

「I am Sakura Fujino. How do you do, Princess Abelia-sama. I feel honoured to receive this kind of duty on this occasion.」

Fu, even I can give a proper response, you know?Why is everyone surprised? Is it strange for me to give a decent greeting?

「.....Did Sakura know etiquette?」²

Oi. I heard that you know? Although it might have been intentionally said in a whisper, I can hear it since I'm next to you, you know! Even I know a bit of etiquette. Only, I felt it wasn't necessary to display it for the royalty of this country...

Doesn't that princess-sama, as a person from a foreign country, seem amazingly proper? She seems to have a good character, unlike the royalty somewhere that constantly waves people around.³

.....However, that thought instantly disappeared.

「Oh my, such a small child made the sweets? My my, how splendid. I very much welcome it *ne.*」

The princess-sama had a delighted expression while placing both hands in front of her chest.

She said 'a small child' just now, right? Hey, Prince Edwill? Please stop laughing and quickly say something!

「*Kuku*, Princess Abelia, she may not look like it, but she's 15 years old. In addition, she's very skilled with cooking, you see. Please expect a lot from today's sweets. Furthermore...」

Nn? Huh? Why are you secretly whispering in her ear? Furthermore, to look in my direction with glimmering eyes... It's worrisome, isn't it?

「Oh my, is that so? My apologies. But if the story earlier is true, perhaps you'll become my sister-in-law in the future, right? I will look forward to it.」

Ha? What is she saying? Little sister? Where did that sort of story...?

「*Fu*, don't worry about it. Leaving that aside, let's sit down. Hey, I'll leave the preparations to you.」

No, even if you say not to worry about it...

But before I could think about it, several maid-sans approached and immediately started preparing tea.

And then, a large chest was placed on the edge of the table.

「Well then, Sakura, take out the sweets.」

「Eh? Me!?」

I never heard about such a thing you know!? It should've just been the explanation of the sweets, wasn't it?

However, that sort of argument couldn't be made here. Helplessly, I left my seat and picked out the box of apple pie from the chest, which was on the side, and placed it on the table.

「This first one is an apple pie. Since apples are delicious in the current season, I came up with a way to enjoy them.」

Is it the maid-sans who will distribute it? A waiter? I don't understand, but I'll leave it to the other people.

.....After all, I can't reach the inner part of the table, so...

It's entirely the oversized table's fault, you know?

When the apple pies were passed around respectively, I returned to my own seat.

Rather, is there any meaning in me leaving my seat every time?

「Delicious!」

You've already eaten it!? Hey, how about the poison tasting!? No, even though there's nothing like poison in them!

Perhaps, this princess-sama is the same type as these royalty here!?

Heey, do the other people not care about it either!? Aah, everyone has already reached out with their hands!

「It's delicious *na*.」

「It's tasty *wa*.」

Yes, thank you very much! I won't say anything anymore, alright!?⁴

「This is..... could you explain how it's made?」

Yes yes, back to work *ne*.

「This apple pie's filling is made by removing the juice from apples, then boiled

with something like sugar and honey. Apart from that, apple slices were baked and afterwards soaked in honey for the sake of revealing its texture, then wrapped up in a pie dough and baked.]

It seems the apple pies are popular. The top of everyone's dishes are clean.

Because Prince Edwill signaled me with his gaze, the next box was placed onto the table.

「How pretty...」

「It feels like a shame to eat it *na*.」

「It smells sweet.」

Fufun, as the creator, this is a piece I have confidence in, you know?

「Next is the cake. It's made with chestnuts, boiled chestnuts are sandwiched between the sponges, and chestnut mousse on either side. The surface also has mousse piled on top of it, please enjoy the fragrance and sweetness of the chestnuts.」

They placed the cakes in their mouths one after another.

It's a little exciting.

「.....Delicious.」

It seems it's popular with the women.

「*Umu*, it's delicious, but..... it might be better if it was a slightly less sweet *na*.」

「It's good if it's just one, but anymore than that will be a little difficult *na*.」

Muu, it seems it's slightly unpopular with the men *ne*. I think it's delicious though...

「These are *sweet potatoes*. It's simple, but I think the taste of the sweet potato can be enjoyed.」 (*note: the first 'sweet potato' is said in english*)

「Even though it's moist, it's smooth, very delicious...」

「It seems no matter how many there are, I'll be able to eat them *wa*.」

「*Fumu*, it's okay if it's this sweet *na*.」

Could it be fine for the men if it's this amount of sweetness?

「These are pear compotes. I believe you'll be able to feel a faint fragrance of wine and the sweetness of pears. It also goes well with alcohol, you see.」

「It's true, it has the smell of wine.」

「This... makes me want to drink alcohol *na.*」

「*Umu*, it seems like a good snack to go with alcohol.」

It appears this is the most popular for the men *ne*.

「Lastly are the grape jellies. Although it's made with boiled grapes, I think you'll enjoy the flavour and texture of the grapes.」

Only the jellies were placed inside a cocktail-like glass.

「It's sweet, without the sourness of grapes *wa.*」

「Although it has a light taste, it's delicious.」

「With the fragrance of the grapes too, if it's like this, then it seems I'll be able to eat as much as I like.」

Muu, to value this more than the cake, which I had the most confidence in, and the compote and jelly, what's going on? I wonder if men and women are incompatible when it comes to sweets?

Lines

1. 挨拶もほどほどにして、お菓子の箱を降ろします。
2. 「.....サクラって礼儀あったのか」
3. あのお姫様は外国の方ですし、すごくまともそうじゃないですか。性格もよさそうだし、どこかの王族みたいに人を振り回すばかりじゃなさそうですし。
4. ええ、有難うござります！もう何も言いませんよ！？

Chapter 70 ~ The Bonus Test Product

Chapter 70 – The Bonus Test Product

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「How was it, Princess Abelia? I thought each and every one of them were very good.」

「Well... Although they were all things I have never eaten before, was it called chestnut mousse? I think that one was the best. Of course, the others were also wonderful and delicious but... Because, only being able to have those sorts of sweets this one time, is regretful¹. Aah, but when Sakura-sama (mumbles), my opportunities to eat them will increase, right? If I don't get His Highness Sedrim to do his best, then that wouldn't be good *ne*.」

「That's right. Please also do it for Princess Abelia.」

Eh? What was that? Why are those two people looking at me? Huh? Even the others, how come they are looking at me with such lukewarm eyes? Heey?

「It seems it's still impossible *ne*...」

「Umu...」

「That's because Sedrim onii-sama has a weak offense...」

「The person herself is completely unaware of it *na*...」

「I would like to quickly have a piece of mind *wa*...」

Eeh? Why am I being gazed at with that sort of pitiful eyes this time?

「Ah—, Sakura, it seems there are still boxes remaining, what is that one?」

Eh? Ooh, that's right. The *umeshu* jelly still remained. I intended for it as a bonus, but let's use it for the sake of escaping this atmosphere. (*note: umeshu is a liqueur made with plums and alcohol*)

「Umm, although it's different from the commission contents, I made this as a test product. If it's okay with all of you, would you like to try it?」

Before hearing the response, I quickly took out a box and opened it.

The waiter-san immediately distributed them in front of everyone.

「It's made for the summer, plums are pickled in alcohol then made into a jelly². Although it isn't a seasonal fruit, please try it. Ah, please be careful since there are seeds in the plums.」

A faint colour shows through as the jelly inside the glass catches the light. Within it are two beads of plums. Everyone's eyes are focused on the glasses.

Phew, I suppose I've deceived them with that? The stuff I made as a test product was surprisingly useful.

However, why had I been looked at with such eyes, I wonder?³

While thinking that, I ate my own portion.

.....Mmm, it has a pickled-like fragrance. It seems if it was a little earlier, it wouldn't have been delicious *ne*. But the flavour came out, so with that...⁴!

「Ara, this jelly has a strong taste of alcohol huh? In addition, it has a slight acidity, it feels refreshing.」

「Fumu, I would be able to eat this even if it was given to me as an individual item *na*.」

「It might be better if the alcohol was a little bit stronger *na*.」

Fumu, it appears it has a high evaluation *ne*.

Mmm, if that's the case, maybe I should have tried making jelly with pickled grapes in white wine *ne*. There wasn't enough time though.

「.....Sakura, it seems these contain alcohol, but will that be alright? You're, umm, weak to alcohol, right?」

「Eh? Aah, this much is fine, you see. Although I say it's alcohol, it's still jelly, the majority of it has been released during its creation.」

The Prince seems to be a worrywart *ne*. No matter how weak to alcohol I am,

there's no way I would get drunk off jelly, isn't that right? Even I'm careful in that situation.⁵

「Leaving that aside, how is it? Although it's *umeshu* this time, but I wonder how it would be if pears or grapes were used with white wine to make a similar jelly.」

Rather, perhaps it would be good to try using the pear compote as it is and turn it into a jelly *ne*. Since I can easily make it if it's that.

「Nn? Aah, that's right *na*. Since Sakura thinks it's a good idea, isn't it fine to try and make it?」

「*Mu*, that's a very 'whatever you do is fine' type of response *ne*. Since I purposely wanted to hear your opinion, please say what you think, Prince.」⁶

「No, even if you say that, because I don't understand how to make it good, my answer... Sakura? Your face is red, are you alright?」⁷

「I'm fine you know. If you don't understand, then please say it properly. Otherwise, it will sound like nothing but 'whatever is okay', wouldn't it?Nn, as expected, it's actually a little sour *ne*. If I had left it to ferment a little longer, would that have been better?」

「Say, are you really alright? Wouldn't it be better to take a rest?」

「Geez, I already said I'm fine~. The Prince is a worrywart *nee~*. Rather, are you alright, Prince? You look wobbly, you know?」

Exactly as I said, the Prince was swaying in front of my eyes. Saying things like I'm weak to alcohol, unexpectedly, isn't it the Prince who's drunk?

Huh? Could the King and Queen also be drunk? Princess Aria, Prince Sedrim, as well as Princess Abelia are wobbling too, you know? Huh, huh? Could everyone be weak to alcohol?

「Aah, don't eat anymore.」

「Ah-! How cruel!」

The Prince snatched away the plum from my spoon! Furthermore, he picked it with his fingers!

「Even though I purposely set it aside to eat it at the end! Please return it!
.....Nom.」

I caught his arm, which was carrying off the plum away from me, and snatched it with my mouth.

「Ara...」

「Fumu...?」

「Oh my...」

「Hou...」

「Ara ara.」

「Nn..... chu..., gulp...」

As expected, there's a little sourness, but it's delicious in its own way. The juice(?) gradually spreading inside my mouth is nice too *ne*.

「Sa-Sakura...?」

「Nm, mm... chupu.」

I carefully sucked off the plum's flavour from the Prince's fingers with my mouth.

With a *cling* sound, I spat out the seed into a glass.

「Huh? What's the matter? Your face is red..... you know...?」

Just when I thought my sight was swaying, my consciousness was suddenly cut off.

[<L O L->](#)

Lines

1. このようなお菓子が今回ののみ、というのは残念でなりません。
2. 夏に作った梅をお酒に漬けた物をゼリーにしてみました。
3. しかしどうしてわたしがあんな目で見られないといけないのでしょうね？

4. でも風味は出ていますし、これはこれで...。
5. わたしだってその辺りは気をつけていますよ。
6. 「む、随分どうでもよさそうな答えですね？せっかく意見を聞いているのですから、王子がどう思うかを言ってください」
7. 「いや、そう言われても私にはどういう物になるのかがわからないから答えようが...。サクラ？顔が赤いが大丈夫なのか？」

Chapter 71 ~ The Bonus Test Product, Afterwards

Chapter 71 – The Bonus Test Product, Afterwards

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「Uu..., unyu...」

What is this, my head is fuzzy.

「Ara, it seems you are conscious wa.」

「Nn, nnn...」

I hear someone's voice.

「Still half-asleep huh? How cute wa.」

It's somewhat warm...

「.....Sakura, it's embarrassing, but...」

「Isn't it just fine? It's proof that she lets down her guard towards His Highness Sedrim wa.」

「No, this posture is embarrassing for me as well but... Besides, my legs have become a little numb.」

Who is it? The person talking above my head...

When I lifted up my heavy eyelids and vacantly looked overhead, my eyes met with a pair of blue pupils.

「.....Huh? Prince...?」

At an excessively close range, was the Prince's face.

「You've finally woken up huh. How are you feeling?」

Eh? Feeling...?

「Good morning. I feel..... somewhat refreshed.

「Then that's good. By the way, if you're feeling fine, then it is about time to get off, but...」

「Eh? Get off...?」

From what, I wonder?

I slowly lowered my head.

...

I raised my head once more.

...

「Eeeh!? How!? Why am I on the Prince's lap!!?」

Right, I'm on top of the Prince's lap, sitting in the so-called baby carrying posture.

「Hey, stop struggling! You will fall, okay!? Calm down for now!」

Eh? Eeeh!?

Why am I being hugged!?

Uwa, my face is hot! I'm sure that my face is bright red right now!

「Hey, firstly, calm down. Once you calm down, slowly get down.」

Eh? No, though I was certainly flustered and struggling! But even so, it wasn't necessary to hug me, right!?

「*Nya~*.」

Look, Even Eru... Huh? Eru?

「*Nya~*.」

「Why Eru is here?」

Towards the cat which suddenly appeared, I hurriedly got off from the Prince's lap.

「*Ara ara*, you got dumped *wa*.」

「Lost to a cat.」

「How pitiful.」

Something was said around me, but for the time being, securing Eru is the priority.

I caught Eru, who came trotting, then carried her.

「With this many leaves stuck on you, where did you come entering from?」

There was some sort of leaves attached to Eru's fur. I guess they probably got stuck on her when she entered this garden.

When brushed them off, I immediately heard Princess Aria's voice.

「Sakura-chan, that cat is?」

Before I knew it, Princess Aria had come to my side and was looking at Eru with sparkling eyes.

「I picked her up around one month ago. Since I somehow got attached to her, I raised her in my home. She's called Eru. She's very smart, you see.」

When I introduced Eru, Princess Aria bent forwards in excitement.

Somehow, it feels like her breathing has gone ragged.

「Eru-chan, right? Umm, may I touch...?」

「Nya~.」

While wryly smiling at this situation, I held out Eru towards Princess Aria.

「I think it's fine, you know? It seems like Eru also says it's fine. But I think it's better to quickly put her down after holding her. Since she's a little dirty and her fur has been falling off increasingly as well.¹」

After saying that, Princess Aria timidly stretched out her hands.

「.....So soft and fluffy wa... Aah, this is happiness...」

Huh? Princess Aria? Your appearance is crumbling, you know? The rare beauty-san is being ruined, you know?²

「As expected, I cannot endure it wa!」

Just as I thought 'Ah', Eru was stolen from my arms and was held in Princess Aria's chest.

「Ni~!」

Was she flustered by the sudden event? Eru begins to noisily struggle.

「No! Eru, please endure it! I'll add *katsuobushi* for dinner afterwards!!」

Did my voice reach her? Eru stopped struggling and became obedient. It would have been terrible if she struggled with her claws *ne*.

But was it because it was painful being buried in Princess Aria's large chest? Her forelegs have yet to move.

.....*ku*, it's not like I'm envious...!

A short time later, was it because she was satisfied? Princess Aria released Eru.

Although she looks somewhat exhausted...

I received Eru and hugged her on my lap to heal.

「Thank you for your hard work. You endured well. However, since you are quite dirty, you will need a bath once we get home, you know?」

「Ni~...」

「That's no good. If you don't want a bath, then please make sure not to get dirty.」

「Ni~...」

Was she worn out from struggling? As Eru was balled up on my lap, I remembered the matter which I had forgotten because of Eru's intrusion.

「.....Umm, by the way, why was I on the Prince's lap...?」

I'd like to just forget about it if possible, but I must confirm why that sort of situation happened.

However, for some reason, everybody has a strange smile towards my question that brings up my shame.

「Sakura, you got drunk on the last jelly. You fell asleep right after you ate the last piece of fruit.」

During the strange atmosphere, the Prince said while grimacing.

「Ah, is that so... Huh? But if it's that and I was just sleeping, I don't understand why I would be in that sort of situation, right?」

Un, even if I got drunk and slept, it doesn't explain why I was on the Prince's lap, right?

「*Ufufu, oh you, Sedrim nii-sama, it's because you didn't say the essential part... I shall give you an explanation wa.* Although Sakura-chan ate the last jelly and got drunk, you tried to eat the last piece of fruit and didn't listen to Sedrim nii-sama when he said to stop *wa*. Therefore, Sedrim nii-sama picked up the fruit with his fingers, but... *Ufu, Sakura-chan grabbed onto Sedrim nii-sama's hand and ate it from his fingers.* That was, a passionate licking to the extent we were embarrassed from looking... The Sedrim nii-sama at that time had a bright red face and was completely stiff... Aah, just thinking about it makes me laugh... Aah, my apologies. Immediately following that, Sakura-chan fell asleep, but...」

Eeh!? No matter how drunk I was, what was I doing, me!? From the Prince's fingers, she said. Eeh!? Furthermore, licked...!

From my vague memory, when I was agonizing over the reality that Princess Aria announced, I was hit with a final blow with a new fact.

「We tried carrying the sleeping Sakura-chan to the guest room, but Sakura-chan wouldn't let go of Sedrim nii-sama's arm... And so, we tried having Sedrim nii-sama carry you, but Sedrim nii-sama said he did not want to carry you to the guest room, when we were thinking of what we should do, Sakura-chan clung onto Sedrim nii-sama's chest *wa*. Since he couldn't carry you to the guest room either, Sedrim nii-sama helplessly placed you on his lap.」

What sort of thing! The period I was unconscious, what did I do!?

「S-So, may I ask how long was I sleeping for...?」

「A little over half a koku, was it around there? *Ufufu, it was so cute wa~.* Pressing your face against Sedrim nii-sama's chest, and sometimes rubbing your cheeks like a spoilt child...」

Noooooooo!! Was I doing that sort of shameful play for over an hour!? I want to immediately wake myself up that was sleeping!³ No, more importantly, I want to

return before I ate the jelly that caused this!!

「Why didn't you carry me to the guest room!?」

Although I know I'm venting my anger, I yelled at the Prince. If I was carried to the guest room, at least my embarrassing appearance would not have been seen for over an hour, but despite that...

「Sakura, have you forgotten? What happens when you lay in bed in your drunken state...」

Uu, when you say that...

「B-But if you laid me down and immediately left...!」

「So far, even I have tried to do that, but I get pulled onto the bed when I try to leave, right? Besides, this time's alcohol volume is small *na*. So I thought you would wake up before long.」

Uuu, I can't say anything to retort...

「So, I wonder why Sakura-chan would cling onto Sedrim nii-sama like that? You wouldn't let go even when other people tried separating you, even rubbing your cheeks on his chest... Heey, I wonder why?」

「Eh? Ummm... It's surely that you know, I'm very familiar with the Prince... Ah, hey! It's most likely because the Prince's chest is comfortable, you see.% There's the difference in height too!」

「Heeh? Come to think of it, you also said that earlier *ne*. Have you also slept on Sedrim nii-sama's chest several times until now, I wonder? Otherwise, you wouldn't have known it would be comfortable, riight?」

Aah! I have a feeling I said something bad!

S-Someone, stop Princess Aria..... wait, everyone is grinning!?

Wait, somebody, please save me!!

Lines

1. 少し汚れていますし、抜け毛も増えてきていますので」
2. せっかくの美人さんが台無しになっていますよ？
3. 今すぐに眠っていたわたしを叩き起こしてやりたいです！

Chapter 72 ~ Graham-san's Request

Chapter 72 – Graham-san’s Request

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「Is it here...」

A location around five days away northeast from the Royal Capital, on the mountain side of Mount Elres at an abandoned entrance to a mine.

Right now, we were standing in front of it.

The beginning of this event started ten days ago.

「Jou-chan, I have a small request...」

In the evening of that day, Graham-san unexpectedly turned up at my house.

And as if it was a difficult subject to talk about, he cut off his words.

「Does jou-chan know about Mount Elres? It's a location northeast of here around five days away by carriage...」

「Uhh..., I more or less know about it, but if I remember correctly, there's currently an abandoned mine within that mountain, right? But currently there are monsters and beasts that have settled in that mountain, the mining area also has things like monster dens in it...」

When I tried picking it out from my knowledge, that mine should have been closed for nearly fifty years from now. It was formerly used to excavate gold and unusual ores, the town at the foot of it was extremely thriving.

However, the amount of output decreased, and after the mine was closed, monsters settled there after a short time; many adventurers attempted to seek out the remaining ores, and have supposed to have died. That story was from twenty-five years ago, but I don't know what it's become nowadays. Well, looking at Graham-san's appearance, it doesn't seem to have changed for the

better...

「Aah... Truth is, ya see, it's absolutely necessary for me to gather a type of ore over there no matter what. I put out a commission in the guild a little while ago, but there still hasn't been a fella that would take it. Therefore, it's that. 'Wouldn't it work if it's jou-chan?', was what I thought *na*. After all, you're the sacred treasure wielding dragon slayer, right? Though you're B ranked, I believe you're almost the strongest within the adventurers, ya know?」

Eh...? That, how does...? The guild has laid out a gag order, I also have not told anyone, and yet...

「Even I have various connections, ya see. Don't worry, I haven't said anything about this to anyone. Well, some humans know about this, however.」

「How did you know what I was thinking...」

「I can immediately understand from looking at jou-chan's expression. Well, for that reason, I'd like to request jou-chan but, could you possibly accept it? Aah, of course, if the contents seem unreasonable, I won't mind if you pull back. Because even I value my life *na*. We can also come to an agreement at that time in order for you to not get a minus for the commission failure, ya see.」

Fumu..., if it's fine to just go, then I don't mind trying...¹

「But, why is that ore needed? Besides, even if you don't go pick it up yourself, shouldn't you be able to buy the ore itself? I don't think it's necessary for you to go as far as to risk yourself going there to pick it up...」

If I'm not mistaken, that ore can be mined in other locations. Like for example, the northern country... Wait, the northern country?

「Aah, it's just as jou-chan thought. Though the ore itself can be mined in a country other than here, the yield is considerably small.² So far it's mostly imported, the majority of it are from the northern country. But that place, the northern country ceased its exports. Thanks to that, the value of the ore in this country has raised drastically, and it's by no means easy to buy it. There's practically none on the market... Because of that, if I'm to buy the required amount, the cost would be outrageous, and there absolutely wouldn't be enough time. Which is why even though I know the risks, I have no choice but to

rely on that mountain.]

I see... So that abandoned mine, is it? Certainly, even though it's said to be abandoned, just because it was abandoned because it wasn't profitable anymore, doesn't mean it was abandoned from exhaustion *ne*.

By the way, the northern country is the one Takahashi-san was summoned at, called the country of Soutines.

「Also, the reason I want that ore... It's for the sake of revealing a weapon at the exhibition taking place at this time's New Year's festival. A weapon made of iron would be fine regularly, but this time's exhibition is a little different *na*. There's an opponent that I absolutely can't lose it. For the sake of that, I need that ore no matter what. Therefore I ask. Could ya take me along to that mountain?」

U~n, well, I don't mind going, but... Besides, he said it was fine to turn back if it was dangerous... No, I understand that it is dangerous but.

「I'll verify the contents for the time being, okay? Firstly, the commission, escort Graham-san along to Mount Elres. Excavate and return with the ore from within. Graham-san will do the excavation, is that right? During that time, it's fine if I guard the perimeter and eliminate foreign enemies, right? And so on the way inside, at the time I judge that it's impossible to advance, thereupon it's fine to turn back.」

「Aah, that's right. Of course, I'll prepare the necessary items, even if we turn back midway, I'll still pay half the reward. This is my last request to jou-chan. If it turns out I participate in the exhibition with a regular iron weapon and lose to that guy, I won't be able to regret it even if I wanted to...³ Please...」

「Haa... I understand already, so please raise your head. Alright then, since I've been in your care, Graham-san, I will undertake it. However, at the time I think it's impossible, even if our goal is in front of our eyes, we will turn back, okay?」

「Really!? I'm grateful!」

「And so, when do we depart? If it takes five days one-way, there isn't much time, right? I don't know how long it takes for Graham-san to make the weapon but... If I remember correctly, the mountain side of Mount Elres, the snowfall

normally begins in November, right? As expected, when it begins to snow, it will be impossible to climb, you know?」

Well, if I use sorcery, we will be able to manage some way or another if it's a little bit of snow, but we won't be able to move once we reach our destination *ne...*

「It's currently the 6th of November right? Since the arrangements and preparations are necessary, how about departing in four days? If so, I think we'd be able to return before it begins to snow. Jou-chan should also prepare your necessary arrangements. I'll also prepare the carriage, so come to the eastern gate after three days at 3 koku. Aah, do you need to go to the guild and accept the commission?」

After saying that, was it because he was happy that I accepted the commission? Graham-san returned home as if he was hopping.

After that, I purchased clothes to protect me from the cold and other necessary items, and departed with mountain climbing provisions.

We jolted on a carriage, which Graham-san had borrowed, for five days, stopped for one night at the town at the foot of Mount Elres, then began mountain climbing early in the morning the following day for approximately a day.

「There's an awful lot of beasts *ne...* As expected, I wonder if it's because winter is just around the corner, so the beasts are hungry?」

Fortunately, we didn't encounter any monsters, but there were many beasts... We've been attacked by bears and wolves over ten times. I defeated them all, but as a result, the distance that could have been crossed in half a day, ended up taking a day.

「Ahh—, well, ain't it good that we're safe...? As expected, at the time we were surrounded by over forty wolves, even I was feeling nervous *na*. To easily defeat them, as expected of a dragon slayer.」

That's easy to say *ne...* Well, thanks to them huddling together, with an area-of-attack magic explosion, half of them were unable to fight...

「For the time being, let's camp here for today ne. There is a good looking cave over there. Let's take a rest there.」

At a location a little ways from the mine entrance, a small cave can be seen. The depth is..... around five meters, I think? Its height is close to three meters, it's enough to keep out the evening dew.

We decided to make camp there, and began setting up the necessary preparations.

I'm in charge of firewood gathering and things like barrier magic, and also the cooking. Graham-san is in charge of securing the beds and producing the stove. It seems like I have a larger amount of work, but since there are the right people for the right job, it can't be helped. I can't have Graham-san, who is more or less the escort target, to gather wood where monsters or beasts may appear during that time, and Graham-san can't use sorcery. In addition, even if I leave the cooking to Graham-san, it would be tastier if I did it. Yes, it can't be helped you see...

During the time the sun completely set, I collected the firewood and a fire was started. While Graham-san was lighting the fire, I prepared the barrier and alarm magic. Once that finished, it was time to cook.

By the way, barrier magic has a similar effect as a barrier magic tool, but because it's said that the levels of the monsters around here are high, I'm using sorcery. For sorcery and a magic tool with the safe effect, although it depends on the ability of the practitioner, sorcery basically displays a higher effect.

Well, because even barrier and alarm magic doesn't mean absolute safety, us two will take turns keeping watch.

After having dinner, the first watch was left to Graham-san, so I decided to quickly sleep.

With my tired body from the mountain climbing I was unaccustomed to, I was lured into sleep right away.

1. ふむ…、行くだけでもいいのなら行ってみてもかまいませんが…。
2. 鉱石 자체はこの国でも採れるが、産出量がかなり少ねえ。
3. もしもこのまま普通の鉄で品評会に参加してあいつに負けるなんてことになつたら、俺は悔やんでも悔やみきれねえ…。

Chapter 73 ~ The Enemies Lurking in the Mines

Chapter 73 –

(highlight)

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Alternating watch during the night, we approached the morning without incident.

After having breakfast and extinguishing the fire, we immediately headed towards the mine.

Inside the completely dark mine, Graham-san carried a torch and led the way. Ah, even though I say it's a torch, it's not ignited with a fire, it's a lamp magic tool.

Almost as if Graham-san had prepared beforehand, though cautious, we advanced without incident through the complicated mine.

I put up my vigilance against the surroundings while following him.

On the way, we were attacked by monsters like Goblins and Orcs, but the scale was small so I easily disposed of them and continued onwards.

I wonder how far have we've progressed? I'm not certain, but from my senses, it's been around two hours?

As we turned a corner of a complicated intersection, I felt something and immediately pulled down Graham-san.

The next moment, something dropped on the location where Graham-san was at just a moment ago with a 'becha' sound.

「Slime...」

Graham-san let out a mutter.

The mucus-like substance squirms around without a form.

Stretched out from the impact of the drop similar to a puddle of water, it

eventually gathered up.

Trying to seize its prey which escaped, the Slime's mucus tentacle extended towards Graham-san.

「Please get down! Flame Arrow!」

Three arrows of flame materialized, and after hitting the Slime, its surroundings gave off an unspeakable stench while roasting the mucus.

The mucus, which was in agony, eventually stopped moving, and finally left a burnt stain on the ground.

「Sure was dangerous... Ya saved me, jou-chan.」

Although a Slime's offensive ability and mobility are not high, similar to just now, it strikes its prey with surprise attacks, once it uses its own mucus to wrap them up, it uses a powerful acid to dissolve and absorb them.

Also, weapon attacks mostly don't have any significant effects, and anything other than freezing or burning it is pointless. Although I said freeze, they are different from water; it's said that since it seems a considerably low temperature is needed, generally, burning it is the best method.

And temporary captured prey gets dissolved alive, which could be called a hellish experience.

「For even Slimes to settle here, it sure is troublesome *ne...*」

Slimes prefer locations with high humidity and dark places. Because that way, it's suitable for it to maintain its body, and the darkness suits its surprise attacks. On the contrary, it's difficult to encounter them in bright places and dry locations.

Since Slimes split up and multiply once they go beyond a certain size, there will be a considerable number of them depending on the location. Since I'm on the subject, Slime's don't have a lifespan.

Although I don't know how many Slimes are in this mine, in the worst case, it's possible that a considerable number of them are lurking.

Different from other monsters, they have almost no presence because surprise attacks are a standard for them, so they are extremely troublesome monsters.

While looking out for surprise attacks from Slimes on the ceilings, and surprise attacks from monsters around the corner, we continued onwards.

「It's supposed to be in the open space ahead. The story is once we pass through, the mining spot will be right there.」¹

After three hours, judging from my senses, it seems we finally approach our destination.

Carefully, we approached the open space.

And the moment we arrived at the open space, within the area, was...

「.....Black Dog...」

With a pitch black appearance, it's a large dog with a height of almost two meters.

Furthermore, there are over ten of them...

「Oi, why are these guys... I've never heard of anythin' like a group of Black Dogs, ya know!?」

Black dogs are also referred to as Hell Hounds, a monster which spouts fire from their mouths. A single one is ranked A. Generally, it should be difficult to see even a single one, but a group of them are living here for some reason.

Certainly, in this sort of situation, an intermediate leveled adventurer, no, if they are careless, it's possible that even a party of advanced leveled adventurers will fall behind.

「It's hopeless, let's run away! Damn it, even though our goal is right in front of us...！」

Although Graham-san tries to turn back, a growl echoed from the open space.

「.....No, it's impossible. They have already noticed us... Please stay here, Graham-san.」

I took off the rucksack from my back, instructed Graham-san, then headed towards the open space alone.

「Jou-chan!? It's impossible! There's still the possibility for escape!」

Although Graham-san cried out, I'm sure that's too optimistic. Leaving myself

aside, it's impossible to escape with the legs that Graham-san has. (*note: he's a dwarf for, those who forgot*)

I am Graham-san's escort, and as his friend, I must do everything I can.²

With the hilt of my katana in hand, I confronted the group of Hell Hounds.

The Hell Hounds spread out as if in coordination while letting out a growl.

Amongst them, a large one opened its mouth and came leaping over.

「*Shi!*」

Measuring the timing, I cut off its head with *iai*. (*note: iai is the art of sword drawing*)

Strengthened as a sacred treasure, the katana was extremely fast, its head was cut right in half through its tough bones.

The Hell Hound, which had came rushing over, fell to the ground with a plop, without even being able to raise a death cry.

「*GROOOOOO!!*」

Was it because its comrade was defeated? The one at the front opened its mouth wide.

Flames could be seen inside it.

「Icicle Lance!」

Intermediate sorcery, an ice lance materialized and pierced into the flames just as it was about to be released.

The ice lance shot through the Hell Hound's head, flew several meters then disappeared.

That's two of them... But still, there are nearly ten Hell Hounds remaining in the area. And those ones were vigilantly glaring at me, taking up a posture which could attack at any time.

From the front, right, and left, each of them came swooping in.

I instantly stepped under the Hell Hound at the front, cut it down with a sideways sweep, then immediately moved to the next target.

「Earth Spike!」

Timed with the Hell Hounds leaping from the left and right, with my sorcery, several sharp spears of rock popped out from the ground.

The spears of rock skewered the Rock Dogs that were in midair, then returned into the ground.

As expected, did they become cautious after around half of them were killed? The remaining Hell Hounds surrounded me in a fan formation.

「OOO—N!」

When the one in middle cried out, the remaining Hell Hounds simultaneously went into a fire breathing posture.

From the remaining six, they raised a roar and flames came attacking.

「HAA!」

I raised my fighting spirit.

Pouring *ki* into my katana, I struck the approaching flames in order to cut it down.

In accordance to my thoughts, the flames were cut down by the *ki* sent from my katana. Was it the remains of the flames? A faint scorching wind blew my hair, but wasn't able to burn a single strand of it.

Were they bewildered that their flames were erased? The Hell Hounds stopped moving as if they were flustered.

Of course, I didn't overlook that.

Using *ki* to strengthen my body, I instantly stepped forward and swung my katana.

The flourishing katana easily cut up the Hell Hounds as if cutting tofu.

With the number of Hell Hounds reduced with every swing, on the sixth swing, the amount of moving targets was already reduced to zero.

I vigilantly looked around the area for a short while, but as there was no movements, I finally relaxed my guard and called Graham-san.

「Fuu... Graham-san, it looks like it's safe to come out already.」

However... For an A ranked monster, eleven of them in addition too, to easily be defeated by a single adventurer... Wouldn't it be a good idea to reconsider its rank?

Huh? Or could it be that I'm strong...? To cut them that easily, perhaps sacred treasures are way too amazing...?

「.....As expected of the dragon slayer huh... To easily defeat A ranked monsters, who would've thought... Furthermore, a single Black Dog is ranked A, ya know? There hasn't been a report of a group of them until now, in the worst case, a group would be over S rank, ya know? To do that alone *na*... I got no idea whether jou-chan is too strong, or sacred treasures are too strong, but it was the right decision to bring jou-chan along...」

Aah, I was just thinking about that...

As expected, it's abnormal to defeat them alone *ne*...

「N-Now then, our goal is right before us, right? Let's go quickly! Okay?」

Unable to bear Graham-san's opinion of me for some reason, I purposely spoke in a loud voice and urged us ahead.

Graham-san didn't say anything further, but after letting out a large sigh, he chose one of the several tunnels, then proceeded ahead.

The tunnels ahead did not have anything in particular, we smoothly continued onwards while the bats and rats, which had settled here, made a racket.

Turning however many corners, we continued through the winding tunnels and eventually met the end.

「Aight, it's here... Since I'll be digging the ores, please make sure not to approach, jou-chan. If a helpless situation arises, let me know with a yell.」

After saying that, Graham-san took out various items from the baggage he was carrying and went into his mining preparations.

I separated a slight ways away then stood guard at the path we came from.

A short time later, *kan kan*, the sounds of something solid began to echo out.

I stood on the opposite side of the path and continued looking out while listening to that.

It's been approximately three hours since then.

While having lunch midway, Graham-san continued mining.

Well, even though I say lunch, it's only preserved food since I can't prepare food here...

Because the mining sounds eventually stopped, I returned to Graham-san to look.

「Ooh, I've gotten quite a bit more than I planned, thanks to you. Wait a little, I'll quickly tidy up.」

Looking at me who returned, Graham-san laughed with a 'GAHAHA' while in a good mood.

However, beside him, there was a mountain of ores that no matter how you look at it, was too many.

「.....Those, are you taking them all back?」

I suppose it couldn't be helped that I unintentionally asked.

Beside Graham-san, were the ores he dug out piled up like a mountain. No matter how I look at it, it's an amount that can't be put into a bag.

However, Graham-san, without an appearance of worrying about it, nonchalantly crammed them into a bag.

.....Is that bag a magic tool, I wonder...?

The ores were tossed in clearly beyond its maximum capacity.

The ores that were piled up decreased before my eyes. But...

「.....Say, does jou-chan's bag have room to spare?」

He stared towards me with pitiful eyes.

「Well, I have a little bit of room but... You dug too many, you know...」

I let out a sigh and lowered my rucksack.

With the mining completed, we cautiously, yet quickly, walked towards the exit.

On the way, we encountered Goblins and Orcs several times, but I cleared them without any problems and continued.

And thus, when we finally reached the exit, the sun had already set.

Well, the days are short during the current season and we are on a mountain after all *ne*. It's inevitable that the days are short.

We decided to also camp at the cave we camped at last night.

Preparing the same way we did last time, we passed through the night without incident.

The next day, we descended the mountain underneath the morning sun.

Without being attacked by any beasts on our way back, we smoothly arrived at the town by the foot of the mountain just before noon.

Staying overnight at the town, we travelled towards the Royal Capital after washing away the fatigue from the morning.

After five days, we returned to the Royal Capital.

「Thanks a lot. It seems I'll manage one way or another thanks to jou-chan. After this, I'll enter the exhibition for creating works. Ya really saved me.」

Kindly receiving his gratitude, I left Graham-san's store and went to report to the Adventurers' Guild.

Receiving the reward from the guild, after doing some shopping, I returned to my home after a long absence.

「Nya~.」

Just as I opened the front door, I was met with Eru's greeting.

Eru has her own personal entryway, and because Eru was originally a stray, I didn't have to worry about a place for her to sleep, but only requested Chiffon-

san to take care of her meals.

Was it because it's been a long time? She started coiling excessively around my feet.

「Yes yes, I'm back, Eru. Please wait a little longer for food *ne*.Wait, you're surprising dirty *ne*... Well, since it's been close to half a month since you've taken a bath, it can't be helped huh... This is perfect. I'll prepare now so let's enter the bath together.」

「*Ni~.*」

「That's no good. Otherwise, you'll do without food, you know? Now, I'll be putting my things away and doing the preparations, so separate a little from me, please. Aah, even if you run, you won't get any food, okay?」

「*Ni~.*」

While laughing a little at her reluctant meow, I realized that I have returned home.

Lines

1. 「この先に広場があるらしい。そこを抜ければ目的の採掘場まですぐだって話だ」
2. わたしはガラムさんの護衛であり、そして知人の一人として出来るだけのことをしなければいけません。

Chapter 74 ~ Festival

~stuff~

oppai ~ (big) boobs

jii-san ~ old man/grandpa

Chapter 74 – *(highlight)*

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It's been five years since then.

My height has grown up to 165cm

My chest too, has grown into a large D cup.

No, these shouldn't be called chests anymore, but *oppai ne!*

Even my butt has grown to a moderate size, even though it's tightened up.

Is it because I have a body constitution which makes it difficult for me to gain weight? Or is it because I move my body everyday as an adventurer? My body has almost no excess fat.

In other words, they are the ideal proportions, you see!I feel it might be better if my chest was a little bigger, but that's a luxury *ne*.

I, who has grown into a splendid lady, won't be described as a 'child' or 'small' anymore like in the past!

Fufufu, I'm already, no matter how anyone sees it, an A·D·U·L·T!

The curse of that bald *jii-san*, who called himself God, pretty much amounted to nothing *ne!!*

「Aah, Sakura... You are such a splendid lady... Won't you please become my wife?」

To the extent where that was the sort of marriage proposal given to me from the *oppai* alien Prince.

Right, it's my era from now on!

「..was the dream I had, you see.」

「Nya~.」

「That must be a prophetic dream! Since it's my first dream of the year after all!」

「Nya~.」

「Hey Eru, are you listening?」

「Ni~.」

Today is the 2nd of January. It's the second day since the new year has begun.

With the rest of the world having festivals together, even though it is early in the morning, a hustle and bustle could be heard from the main street.

Until tomorrow, the main street of the Royal Capital will be filled with stalls and tourist attractions.

Yesterday, the royalty all had a New Year's ceremony by the castle, there will also be a parade today. In addition, Graham-san will be putting up something at the exhibition today.

And it seems there will be a swordplay tournament tomorrow.

It's a good time for people who put up stores during these three days to make a profit, other than those people, these three days will be in an uproar every day.%

Eh? What about me, you ask? I'm...

「Ah, welcome!」

「Nn? A child is working? What..., even though I came because I heard it was delicious, I shouldn't have any expectations huh...」

Mu, how suddenly rude *ne*. However, the me of today is tolerant. Since I had a pleasant dream *ne*. Furthermore, it was my first dream of the year, you know?

「Please say those words after you eat. If it's not delicious, I'll give you a refund.」

「Looks like you have an awful lot of confidence. Fine then, I'll take one.」

「Okay, that will be six Goualch for one.」

Eh? What am I doing, you ask? It's a *yakitori* store, you see. Of course, I carefully examined and chose the ingredients, even the sauce is made with my own special base salt. The stall was also borrowed from the guild's connections.



yakitori

「.....Delicious! What the hell is this...! Eating something this delicious, it's my first time ya know!!」

Fufufu, well isn't that right? Delicious things are universal! Deliciousness is justice!

「My bad, I withdraw my previous words. So please, sell me ten more!」

「My apologies, one person may only have up to five. Therefore, dear customer may only purchase four more.」

Because there was a customer in the beginning who kept purchasing large quantities, I decided this in a hurry. I thought they would sell well, but to suddenly get told something like one hundred of them, I'll instantly go out of business.% Therefore, I decided to limit it to five per customer.

「Is that so..., it's unfortunate but it can't be helped huh. Four is fine then,

please.]

「Yes, thank you very much. That will be 24 Goualch.]

Yesterday they had sold faster than I expected, since the portions that were prepared had run out by early afternoon, I closed up shop.

But today I stocked a larger amount, however...

「Ojou-chan, I'll have five please.]

「Yes, that will be 30 Goualch.]

Since customers have been purchasing almost non-stop, the considerably large amount of prepared portions rapidly decreased.

Despite being just before noon, close to half the amount had run out.

「Excuse me, would you tell me the recipe for this sauce?]」

Occasionally, these sorts of customers come too. Of course, I don't tell them *ne*.

「The sauce is a secret, so... If you want to know by all means, please investigate with your own tongue.]」

The sauce is a trade secret, you know? Well, though it isn't an important recipe.

However, this person didn't leave.

「If it's payment you want, then I'll pay. Therefore, won't you please tell me?]」

「It's impossible. It isn't the problem of payment, this is my flavour. If you're also a chef, then you'll understand, right?]」

You there, you're prohibited from retorting with 'since when did you become a chef', okay?

Well, I'm not reluctant to spread the flavour around, but each person wishes for their own original creation.% Paying money and simply obtaining it is a mistake.

「Is that all? If you are not buying anything, then please return. Since other customers are waiting too.]」

In accordance to my words, is it because lunch is approaching? A considerable amount of people have built up a line in front of the stall.

「.....I understand... I'll buy five.」

「Yes, that will be 30 Goualch.」

Now then, the next person...

Lines

1. お店をやっている人はこの3日が稼ぎ時で、それ以外の人はこの3日間、毎日大騒ぎをするのです。
2. 売れればいいと思いますが、いきなり100本とか言わると、すぐに店じまいになりかねなかったからです。
3. まあ、味を広めるのはやぶさかではありませんが、それはそれが創意工夫をして求めるものです。

Chapter 75 ~ Exhibition

Chapter 75 – Exhibition

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The prepared ingredients were sold out at 7 koku, or 2 in the afternoon. What shall I do after this? According to the schedule, it should've been sold out around the time the parade starts but...

U~n, since the parade is after the evening, shall I take a look at the exhibition? I also want to take a look at Graham-san's work... The exhibition was held at the castle's hall, wasn't it?

Eh? Why did I begin a stall all of a sudden, you ask? There are several reasons, but roughly speaking, there are two I suppose?

The first is to spread out delicious things. Just like I have explained in the past, the seasoning in this world is basically salt, pepper, and a few herbs. Rather, I'm sure it's better to say there's nothing other than that. To say it nicely, it shows off the flavour of the raw ingredients, but...

If I'm cooking for myself, at least in my house I'm able to eat things I think are delicious, but... Anything delicious becomes a distant thing when it comes to something like in the middle of travelling you see...

So there I thought, 'If that's the case, it would be good if I spread out delicious things'. Of course, the flavour wouldn't advance if the recipe was simply given out freely. So that's the second reason.

I'll have them know it'll be delicious depending on the seasoning! Which is my strategy. Luckily, tourists flock into the Royal Capital from all over the country for this festival. So I thought, if I sold items with new flavours, wouldn't it catch the attention of many people?

Of course, there is also the meaning of confirming these flavours are profitable. And the result could be said that when people realize that delicious

things are popular, they will produce their own delicious dishes. When humans experience something delicious once, everything else will easily drop in rank *ne*¹... A terrifying plan, even if I do say so myself, is it not!?

Fufufu, with that, the day when I can eat delicious things even if I'm travelling is approaching *ne*...

Eh? Why did I do *yakitori*, you ask? That's... the cost and convenience of a rental stall, you see... Right, also because I was late coming up with the idea, on top of the rental stall and concerns of procuring stock, the only choice was to be a *yakitori* vendor. By the way, the most popular stalls are most easily the ones which deal with meat. Following that are the ones which deal with drinks. *Yakitori* is simple and it's said that it's not very profitable so they're not popular, you see. Well, because of that, I was able to apply even if it was a fairly last-minute thing.

Therefore I started as a *yakitori* vendor, but... Looking at the reactions up until today, it's good to think of it as a huge success, I suppose. If I have another chance, I'd like to try something different *ne*.

Takoyaki would be... since there isn't a culture to eat octopus in the first place, it would be difficult *ne*.



takoyaki – kinda like fried octopus balls

Yakisoba as well, since preparing the noodle portion would be difficult, as for shaved ice, there is the problem of the ice and the season.



yakisoba

Would *okonomiyaki* or crepes be good, I wonder...? Let's think of something before the next opportunity.



okonomiyaki – a type of savoury pancake-like thingo

After this and that, right now I've come to the exhibition's venue.

Is it because the time is the mid-afternoon? There is a rather small amount people. Thanks to that, I'm able to take my time and look *ne*.

This exhibition is divided into four parts. First is the accessory division. Things like the engravings and designs are the targets of evaluation in this division. Because the displayed items are small gorgeous ornaments, just looking at them is enjoyable.

Of course, although the appearance is also important, since it doesn't say that luxurious materials must be used, people with money do not have an advantage. The creators of the works evaluated in this exhibition can get noticed by nobles over here or rich people over there, which is to say, it's a shortcut to their dreams of being a professional at their field.

Second is the magic tool division. From the freely created magic tools, they will be evaluated on their idea, design, completed condition and *etc*. Amongst them are, 'What do you use it for? What kind of situation do you use it?' and other ambiguous things, but that's also the interesting part of this division I suppose. For the excellent works, it seems there are offers from the research institute as well.

Third is the armor division. Though it's just the name, the armor designs, performance and *etc*, are evaluated. There are also things with strange designs,

but it seems it's basically evaluated in the direction of its reliability. Last year's excellent work was a simple portable plate armor capable of attaching and detaching, it seems it's been deployed to practically a portion of the Chivalric Order. By the way, it appears that several joke-like armor always gets displayed every year. I wonder what it will be this year?

Fourth is the weapons division. Graham-san's exhibit is also here. With the freedom of choosing the shape of the weapon, from those they'll be evaluated, including things like its practicality, general purpose and design. By the way, the most popular are swords, and the least popular are blunt weapons.

Blunt weapons, how plain *ne*...

In the armor division and weapon division, magic tools are prohibited from display. Of course, there are works with a prerequisite of magic tools as well, but it seems that's regarded as a different part of evaluation.²

Graham-san's exhibit is a one-handed straight tempered sword. Although I'm not well-informed, a clear distinction can be seen from its brilliance and design compared to the other exhibits. Could this be bias as an acquaintance, I wonder?

However, when I look at them like this, there sure are various things *ne*... Among them which attracted my attention, a fantasy work, is the familiar bikini armor...? What sort of person would wear that...? Even if it wasn't that, female adventurers are fairly scarce, and not even an entire ten percent of them become a knight. Really, who is it made for *ne*...

Ah, but if someone like Princess Aria wears it, its effectiveness would be high, in a different meaning *ne*. At least if the opponent was a male, I'm sure it would be able to create an opening...

Oops, after taking my time looking, a considerable amount of time has passed. When I looked outside, the sun as already noticeably set. Since the time for the parade appears to be close as well, it's about time I should return huh.

When I went outside, it became extremely noisy. It seems the people who are going to look at the parade have gathered.

Although the parade is something simple where all the royalty board several carriages and parade around the town, magic tools and sorcery are used in it.

Well, simply put, illumination-like sorcery are used like fireworks.

Nevertheless, the average person rarely have the chance to see sorcery, although the sorcery used is intermediate leveled, due to a number of people using it, it becomes something considerably large-scaled. In addition, there isn't often an opportunity to see royalty up close either. So, because you can see such rare things in this parade, it's popular.³

Well, it doesn't feel that rare for me but...

When I preceded ahead while pushing through the crowd, a large cheer rose up in the direction of the castle. Followed together with a large noise, fireworks bloomed in the sky.

Although I can't see because of the crowd, it seems like the parade has begun.

Since I've taken the effort, I went towards the front. In times like this, my small body is convenient.Right, only in times like this...

At the front, a group of knights on horseback came advancing. Behind them were infantry hoisting their company flag, while slowly walking.

Occasionally, a magician I wonder? When a person on horseback dressed in a robe waved their arm, multi-coloured lights burst forth here and there.

Later on following the group of knights, were several gorgeously decorated open carriages. There at the front was the King and Queen, though I couldn't see the next carriage, it was most likely boarded by the previous King and his Queen. The next carriage had a group of robes on it, the fireworks were shot from there to the sky. Ah, Len-san was also on it. The carriage after that were Prince Edwill and Princess Abelia. Princess Abelia, so you were still in this country *ne...*

The next carriage was boarded by Prince Sedrim and Princess Aria. *Muu*, he's somewhat like a completely different person, waving his hands with that refreshing smile. Even though inside of him is *that* Prince, he really ends up looking like royalty. I ended up feeling frustrated for some reason.

Come to think of it, I have a feeling it's been a while since I have seen the Prince's face *ne*. It appears he was continuously busy with matters of the festival since the end of the year, he hasn't come to eat since the first half of December either... I was also busy with the matters of the stall and commissions *ne*.

.....Huh? Could this be the first time I haven't been able to see the Prince's face? No, well, it just felt a little odd, you see. This is natural.

.....I wasn't thinking something like I was lonely, you know?

Nn? I have a feeling the Prince looked over here just now. Although I said I was at the front, since I'm concealed within the crowd of people because of my height, I'm only peeking out from the gaps so I wouldn't be noticed, right? Although I somehow seemed to have seen his refreshing smile collapse for an instant, it was my imagination, right?

During the large cheers, when the group of carriages passed through, the Chivalric Order subsequently came walking. With the respective squads assembled in file, they advanced with perfect steps while hoisting their company flag. Occasionally, the sorcery of a magician, who has slipped inside, excites the spectators.

When they passed through, the cheers gradually moved towards the town.

While the spectators here each spoke of their thoughts, they began to chase after the cheers towards the town.

I also went with the flow and returned home.

While having a gloomy feeling inside my chest, I thought about what I should make for today's dinner.

Lines

1. 人間は一度美味しいものを知ってしまうと、なかなかランクを落とすことができなくなりますからね....。
2. 防具部門と武器部門は、魔具は出品禁止です。もちろん、魔具を前提とした作品もありますが、それは評価とは別の部分で考えられるらしいです。
3. なので、このパレードはそういう珍しいものを見ると言う意味でも人気なのです。

Chapter 76 ~ The Final Day of The Festival

~things~

hetare ~ incompetent, good-for-nothing, lazy, worthless etc...

Chapter 76 – The Final Day of The Festival

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「Wai—, Prince...!？」

「Sakura, I want you to say my name... ‘Sedrim’...」

「Eh? No, please wait a moment! What are...? *Nmu!*?」

Eh? What? What is this!? Just now, the Prince kissed me...!?

「*Nfu...*, no, wait, *hya...*!」

The tongue! The Prince’s tongue entered my mouth!!

The Prince’s mouth blocked my mouth enough that it hurt, the Prince’s tongue raged inside my mouth, stealing away the strength from my body.

How long has it been, I wonder? The moment I struck the Prince’s arm with my powerless hand when it became painful, my mouth was finally released.

「.....Sorry... But I can’t endure it any longer. Sakura, I want your everything... Please become mine...」

「Eh? Prince, wait...?」

「It’s Sedrim.」

「Eh? Ah, Sedrim..... -sama...?」

Since he’s more or less a prince, honorifics are necessary, right?

However, the Prince’s expression turned into intoxication the moment I called him that.

「Sakura...!」

The moment I thought ‘Eh?’, my powerless body was pushed down.

My body sank into a springy bed with a ‘poof’.

Eh...? Bed? When did...?

When I was dumbfounded by the sudden development, before I knew it, my arms were pinned above my head.

And then the Prince, with his intoxicated expression, dropped in front of me.

「Sakura... I’ll be gentle... So...」

Once again, the Prince’s lips, with my lips...

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「KYAAAAAAA!!!」

I jumped up while screaming.

My heart is pounding.

「Ni~」

Eru, as if protesting, hit my arm.

「Eru...? Huh...? Just now, that was, a dream...?」

When I looked around, I was currently on top of a bed in a bedroom. The room was also the usual bedroom of my house. In my usual sleep-wear, on my usual bed. It’s here where Eru usually sleeps.

「Like I thought, it was a dream huh...」

However, what kind of dream was that... That... who would’ve thought, to have that sort of dream and that Prince...

My heart is still pounding. Most likely, my face is flushed red, I’m sure.

「What a vivid dream... It's said that dreams represents desires, but it can't be, I have such a desire...? No, it's surely a delusion! It must have been caused by yesterday's parade! Perhaps, because it's been a long time, and furthermore seeing his formal face!¹ Maybe I had a slightly better opinion of him? Feeling that sort of way is also my imagination! Otherwise, the Prince and I doing such a... Ahaha, there's no way, you know! Because the Prince is an *oppai* alien after all! Riight? Ahahaha... haa...」

Somehow, I have a feeling I received damage from my own words.

「Nya~.」

tap tap

Although Eru gave me a comforting cat punch, my mood sank even more...

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Was it because of this morning's dream? Without being in the mood for some reason, I began preparations for my stall for the final day of the festival.

Since I had the chicken meat delivered by the butcher, I only needed to cut them into suitable sizes and skewer them in the stall.

Which means, right now I'm earnestly cutting, cutting, and rolling them.

「Geez! That dream as well! Everything! The Prince is to blame!」

Dangerous 'bam bam' noises echo throughout the vicinity. The meat were rapidly being cut.

「Because! That was! Absolutely! Not! My desire!」

Although the people going passed the stall peered in thinking what was going on, they left without saying anything once they saw the meat being cut.

「Fuu..., it should be okay for the time being if it's this much, I suppose? However, why must I be troubled about the Prince... Both this and that, the Prince cannot continue to always be a *hetare*.² He's always a *hetare*, but because he occasionally makes that face...³」

The face of the Prince at the time of yesterday's parade, and the Prince who approached me in my dreams came to mind, which I hurriedly shook off.

「I'm sure because the Prince the male I'm most familiar with so he appeared in my dream. Which reminds me, the males around me, there sure aren't many *ne*... Graham-san is, rather than a friend, closer to an acquaintance, speaking of the other males, it's only Takahashi-san and the shopkeepers... *Muu*, there are no males close to my age...」

Come to think of it, the boys around my age when I was in my previous world were also, let alone friends, there wasn't even one I could call an acquaintance *ne*... Perhaps, my life, won't have much luck with men...?

Muu, at this rate, my life, won't it become lonely, I wonder...?

It seems it's necessary to make immediate improvements *ne*...

As I was moving my hands while thinking, the meat which needed to be cut had disappeared before I realized.

It's about time to start the fire and open up the store...

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「Welcome. Five pieces right? That will be 30 Goualch. Yes, thank you very much.」

Continuing from the first day and yesterday, today also had an excellent amount of customers since the morning. At this rate, it seems I'll be closing up faster than yesterday.

「Welcome.」

Roast roast roast, sell sell sell... The meat gets cut and skewered during the free time... I'm incredibly busy.

「Welcome! Eh? One customer may only have five pieces. I'm sorry.」

When I lose even a little bit of focus, a customer would be waiting before I know it, my goodness. Although the sales are doing well, it being too hectic is

also a problem *ne...*

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A queue started up when it became close to lunch. *Uu*, I don't have enough hands, you know!?

「Yes, five pieces, is it? Please wait a moment until it's cooked.」

Aah, Geez! They disappear as soon as I cook them! The meat! The skeweers!!

.....

Haa haa...

I somehow sold them all...

The crowd was bigger than yesterday... The prepared meat has also been exhausted you know...

It's that huh, when I look at it like this, I believe the Japanese had incredibly good manners.

What's this about, you ask? The queue, you see.

The Japanese searches for the end of the queue and goes to line up themselves, but there are some people here who don't care about such a thing. No, perhaps I should say there are many...

It's easy to handle if it's several people in a queue so there are no problems, but it goes horrible when it exceeds a certain number of people... Cutting in is common, skewers get snatched away when I'm handing them over, even when I ask them to please queue up, they get angry at me where I should instead be angry at them...

In the end, when I clearly said I won't sell if they won't queue up, they became a little behaved but...

I've heard things like stories of how foreigners don't queue up, or stories of how Japanese manners are good, but who would have thought, to experience it personally like this after coming to another world...

Anyway, the yakitori had sold out at this time's festival. Since the stall is scheduled to be collected by the merchants tomorrow, it will be over once I clean up.

Now then, what shall I do with the remaining time...? The swordplay tournament is today *ne*. Shall I go have a look? The latter half should still be going on if it's at this time, it might be just perfect *ne*.

If I remember correctly, the venue should be the training ground inside the castle...

Would there be anyone I know who is a participant, I wonder?

Lines

1. 多分、久しぶりに王子の、しかも余所行きの顔を見たからです！
2. それもこれも、いつも王子がヘタレなのがいけないんです。
3. いつもはヘタレなくせに、たまにあんな顔をするから...」

Chapter 77 ~ Swordplay Tournament

~things~

hetare ~ incompetent, good-for-nothing, lazy, worthless etc...

Chapter 77 – Swordplay Tournament

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When I approached the tournament's venue, a unique ardour could be felt. Loud cheers were sometimes let out, so it seems it's the middle of a match.

While pushing my way through the crowd, I moved to a place where the match could be seen.

The sounds of the ground being kicked and metal colliding echoes out.

At the centre of the prepared stage, two knights clashed with swords.

Let's say the one attacking right now is Knight A, and the other is Knight B.

Knight A's sword is cutting down onto Knight B, but Knight B jumped backwards and evaded it. However, Knight A pursued in order to strike back, this time the sword slashed upwards from below. Although Knight B's sword received the strike, perhaps because the strike was promptly received so he couldn't brace himself, his sword was knocked away by Knight A with a force that could kill.

At the same time, Knight A thrust his sword by Knight B's neck and ended the match.

Cheers rose after that, and Knight A waved his hands at the crowd.

I somewhat relayed it plainly, but to be honest, I don't think the level of the tournament was very high.

It wasn't too surprising when I listened to the surrounding people, it appears

the current match was the final match for the rookie knights. So to say, it's matches between sons of nobles *ne*. 'But still, this kind of level, to be honest, wouldn't Goblins be better?' Was the only thing I thought. Being like that, would they be okay, I wonder...?

By the way, it seems the main match will be after this.

From a selection among the regular knights, it appears to be a tournament styled semi-finals match where the winners advance.¹

It sure seems to be more interesting than the match a short while ago...

The space was cleared in a short moment, and two knights appeared out of the waiting room.

Their armor has a chest and abdomen section, in addition, it appears there are simple articles covering just their arms and shins. The knights from a little while ago had mail armor? It's called chainmail, was it? That was what they wore, but it appears the knights this time only had sections covered. Could this also be the difference in ability, I wonder? Their weapon was a one-handed straight-tempered sword.

The two faced each other at the centre of the stage. After they both placed their swords against each other, they separated.

Perhaps the spectators are also nervous, they gave off a tense atmosphere.

「Begin!」

At the signal of the referee, the knight on one side instantly came forwards. For convenience, I'll treat him as Knight A as well.

giin!

The sound of striking metal echoed through the venue.

He placed his weight into his strike with the momentum of his charge, but Knight B received it with the base of his sword.

As expected, they are different from the knights before, their movements and power are completely different.

They had their swords locked for a short while, but Knight B shifted his body

and withdrew his strength. As if pulled in by that, Knight A's posture, by just a little, collapsed.

As though he was carefully aiming for that, Knight B struck down with an overhead strike.

gagiin!

Somehow, by that method, Knight A's posture collapsed from defending that slash. At this rate, whether he can endure the next attack or not...

giin! giin!

As if playing around, Knight B attacks assaulted down onto Knight A. But, it's clear that he held back his strength. Despite that, it's an attack method which never allows Knight A to reorganize his posture.

This is... Knight B is playing around *ne...*

Although I think he has amazing ability to arrive at the semi-finals and have room to play around, I can't say he has a good hobby.

The audience gets roused up, but perhaps Knight A understands he's being played around, he somehow reorganized his posture.

If you look closely, Knight B's mouth is smiling.

.....His hobby really is bad...

giin!

The strike, which Knight A struggled to let out, was also easily repelled. Because of that, it created an absolute opening on Knight A.

Knight B's sword was grandly swung. At this rate, it will result in a considerably injury on Knight A...!

The moment I thought it was a desperate situation.

「Enough!」

The voice of the referee echoed.

Knight B's sword stopped just before Knight A's side.

「WAAAAAAA!!」

When it came to an end, the audience's cheers became huge. But, at that time, if the referee didn't stop it, I'm sure Knight B's sword would probably have firmly hit Knight A's side...

Although it's a sword for mock battles, no matter how much the edge of the sword has been flattened, it's still a lump of iron.

Though he seems to have the ability, it appears it can't be said that he has the personality to be a knight...

Once again, two knights came out after a short interval. Their appearance seemed different from the knights a little while ago.

.....Wait, isn't that the Prince on the other side!? To remain until the semi-finals, he isn't a mere *hetare ne*...

「Begin!」

Together with the referee's signal, both sides stepped forwards this time.

The swords exchanged blows with intense sounds.

Two times, three times, the swords rang out, each time the audience got excited.

Fumu... the Prince is also doing fairly good *ne*. Despite exchanging blows, it can be seen he is easily handling it. The opposing Knight, shall we call him Knight C? An impatient expression can be seen on Knight C.

The moment of the fifth rally, Knight C staggered and dropped back. There, the Prince immediately pressed forwards.

Unable to withstand the blow which had the Prince's weight placed in to, the sword separated from Knight C's hands, and immediately following, the Prince's sword was placed precisely in front of Knight C.

「Enough!」

The match progressed with a wonderful sense of stability. I may need to look at the Prince a little differently *ne*...

The final match next is, the Prince and Knight B huh... To be honest, I can't come to like the way Knight B fights. I might be unwilling, but let's cheer for the

Prince.

Although I think there isn't much if a difference between their abilities, could he have the advantage in power over Knight B?

After the short break, the Prince and Knight B appeared on stage.

At the centre of the stage, the two people could be seen saying something but... I don't know what they are talking about.

Both of them eventually separated, and stepped back to the starting positions.

「From here on, the final match will be performed! Well then..... begin!」

Together with the signal, an exchange of blows..... did not happen, both of them did not move.

That situation continued for a little while, when the audience began to get impatient, the Prince made a move.

However, he didn't instantly cut down the distance, but slowly approached Knight C. While his sword was still lowered moreover. This made the audience dumbfounded as well.

Although Knight B had his sword vigilantly prepared, the Prince approached without even paying attention to it and walked without change,

The moment he entered the sword's range, perhaps he was impatient, Knight B stepped forwards while firing off a stab.

However, as though the Prince had read that, he struck up his sword from below and repelled Knight B's sword.

giin! giin!

Knight B stood at a disadvantage. Receiving numerous attacks with his sword, he attempted to desperately reorganize his posture. It was as if looking at the match between Knight A and Knight B, with their positions appearing to have been changed.

The difference was, it could be said the Prince's attacks weren't held back, I suppose? Knight B somehow defended, but if he didn't tightly defend, it would be an attack which cannot be defended.² If Knight B made a mistake, it would be

the kind of attack that decides the match.

Impatience rose on Knight B's face. Compared to the composed expression of the Prince. Calmly, Knight B gets driven to a corner.

giin! giin!

The sounds of swords exchanging echoed out many times.

Knight B, as anyone could see, was in a disadvantage. There wasn't any composure like in the beginning.

Eventually, the impatient Knight B swung out for an attack, but as if to match it, the Prince's attack, without engaging it, repelled it.³ A huge opening appeared on Knight B.

There, the Prince's attack rushed in.

Knight B desperately pulled back his sword and somehow met that attack with his sword, but with his balance affected, the Prince's sword went on without stopping, and Knight B's sword was flicked away from his hands.

At Knight B, who was completely defenseless, the Prince swung an attack.

「Enough!」

Together with the referee's signal, the Prince's sword was stopped precisely next to Knight B's side.

When the Prince withdrew his sword, Knight B sat down on the ground as if he lost all strength.

.....Prince, he deliberately aimed at that *ne*... Was it revenge for Knight A a little while back? I can't say that's a good hobby, you know? No, I feel satisfied but...

Nevertheless, that Prince is quite strong *ne*... How unexpected. That time at yesterday's parade, and the match right now, it doesn't seem like the usual Prince. Come to think of it, he looked at me with passionate eyes within my dream...

.....Wait, I just ended up remembering it, didn't I!? Aah, geez! Why does my heart pound so much when it comes to the Prince!? *Kuu*, my face has certainly

turned bright red...! Worldly desires begone, worldly desires begone...

It's that, it's surely because of the gap! In spite of the usual nonchalant and *hetare* Prince, his diligence from yesterday and today felt wrong!⁴ Commonly referred to as, that thing called gap moe or something, you know! It's a moment of delusion!

In order to persuade myself, I muttered 「My imagination」 many times.

On the stage, the Prince was talking to the King with a smile.

Looking at that, I felt my pulse speed up once again.

Lines

1. 正騎士の中からの選抜で、トーナメント形式の試合を勝ち進んでの準決勝だそうです。
2. 騎士Bはなんとか防いでいますが、きっちりと防御しないと防ぎきれない攻撃ばかりです。
3. やがて焦ったような騎士Bの攻撃が振るわれますが、それに合わせたような王子の一撃であえなく弾かれてしまいます。
4. いつものほほんとしたヘタレ王子のくせに、昨日今日と真面目な事をするからいけないんです！

Chapter 78 ~ Interrogation?

Chapter 78 – Interrogation?

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.....Why am I in this sort of place, I wonder...?

「Now, Sakura-chan? Since this is talk between women, there shall be no secrets, okay?」

In front of me is Princess Aria.

「Ufufu, Sakura-sama? There is plenty of time, okay?」

And behind me is Chiffon-san.

「Ara ara, everybody has things they want to hide, okay?」

Furthermore, the Queen is off to the side...

How did it become like this, I wonder...?

Both the New Year's festival had finished, and the family celebration period had ended on the 7th of January. For the sake of shopping, I went walking around town.

There, as soon as a luxurious carriage happened to pass by, it all of a sudden stopped in front of me, and of all things, I was pulled inside.

And inside that carriage, Princess Aria was there. Being kidnapped without knowing the reason either, I was in Princess Aria's private room before I knew it.

「Umm... might I ask, why am I here...?」

Tea was prepared in front of me, and I finally opened my mouth.

「.....?」

However, what I got back wasn't words, but an 'I don't understand why you're asking that' type of expression.

「I, was in the middle shopping but...」

「It's all right *wa*. Your shopping should mostly be completed. Because I properly confirmed it before I brought you along *wa*.」

.....When did I get aimed at, I wonder? I began to feel fear towards the lady in front of me.

「I shall ask frankly *wa*! You, how do you feel about Sedrim-nii-sama!?」

「Eh?」

The words which came out of Princess Aria's mouth, was something I completely didn't expect at all.

When my eyes were going black and white towards the question which I didn't comprehend, perhaps she got impatient that I wasn't saying anything, Princess Aria opened her mouth once more.

「Like I said! About Sedrim-nii-sama, does Sakura-chan see him as a man!?」

Umm, how do I answer...?

Here we return to the beginning.

「The Prince is, a man, you know?」

Probably, that wasn't the answer at all, I suppose.

However, I couldn't think of anything good to say other than that.

「That is not the sort of answer I want to hear *wa*! Sakura-chan is 15 years old as well, right? Then, it is not like you don't understand right? As a woman, I want to know how you see Sedrim-nii-sama as!」

「Ah, I turned 16 at the end of November.」

Although the calendar in Japan and the calendar here isn't exactly equal, there's a difference of a few days. Well, it doesn't matter right now.

「Eh? Ara, is that so? Although it is late, congratulations.」

「Thank you very much」

「Wait, that's fine and all, but that's not what I want!¹ What I want to hear now is, how does Sakura-chan, think of, onii-sama *wa*!」

No, like I said, even if you say that sort of thing...

I looked towards Chiffon-san and the Queen in order to seek help, but both of them were keenly interested in my answer with an anticipating look.

It's useless! I have no ally here!

I opened my mouth after thinking for a little while.

「Umm... Even if you ask how I think, I don't have an answer. Since I haven't thought like that until now...」

Actually, I don't know how to answer... But being suddenly brought along, why would they want to hear this sort of thing, I wonder?

「U~n, then I will change the question *wa*. Sedrim-nii-sama goes to Sakura-chan's house almost every day, but what do you think?」

Eh? Umm, even if you ask what...

「.....I was puzzled in the beginning. For a prince of a country to visit an adventurer's house to have meals, I thought about it but, well, if it's the royalty of this country, it's not something impossible I guess. Since they're unusual in various ways... Besides, since the time it takes to make either one person's portion or two persons' portion doesn't change much, as expected, I get happy that the meals I make get called delicious... So since the Prince is fine with it, I don't mind preparing extra.」

「.....Regarding a gentleman visiting the house of an adult woman, and one who lives alone furthermore, do you not think anything about it?」

「Eh? It's me after all, you know? My height is also short, even my chest is small... I hardly have the charm of a woman after all. Since I heard the Prince wasn't a person with such hobbies, I didn't mind it *ne*.」

Ah, I slightly damaged myself with my own words...

「T-Then Sakura-chan, doesn't have thoughts about things like onii-sama is a little attractive, or like he's manly?」

「Eh...?」

This is another unexpected question. Well, if I say whether or not I have those

sorts of feelings then... I have.

The parade at the time of the festival and the matter of the swordplay tournament, I properly saw him as a man if I go further back to around the beginning, his large body and thick chest which wrapped me up entirely, those firm muscles and...

Wait, what did I remember!?

「Ara? That reaction is... There is, right? When?! Where was it!?」

Scary! For a beauty-san's face to be this scary when close, I have become aware of it for the first time!

「Your Highness Princess Aria, please do not approach like that. Sakura-sama is frightened, you know?」

Chiffon-san! As expected, Chiffon-san was my ally *ne!*

Gently stopped by Chiffon-san, Princess Aria's face returned to her previous position.

「It's likely, but I believe what Sakura-sama recalled was the matter of His Highness Prince Sedrim's body. At one time, when Sakura-sama had gotten drunk, His Highness Prince Sedrim was substituted as a body pillow as she slept. Did you not recall the matter of that time?」

Wait, eeh!? What sort of thing are you suggesting!? Well, even though you've hit the mark!

Look! Hasn't Princess Aria taken the bait!?

「That is my first time hearing of that *wa!* Why was it concealed!? Please explain in even more detail!」

No way! Don't say anymore!

I frantically gave Chiffon-san eye contact.

Chiffon-san saw that, and nodded once.

Hoo... I'm a little relieved with that...

「Since I have gotten permission from Sakura-sama, allow me to explain *ne*. What I have seen was on two occasions. The first time was at Sakura-sama's

house, it was Sakura-sama's day of first menstruation *ne*. That day, His Highness Prince Sedrim came and summoned me with a flustered appearance, I went rushing and only saw the end but... The second time was at the morning after the ball. At that time, Sakura-sama was sleeping while clinging onto His Highness Prince Sedrim's chest. When she got separated from His Highness Prince Sedrim's body, she hated to part and even rubbed her cheeks on him... It was incredibly cute *wa*... By the way, Sakura-sama had thrown off the clothes on both of them. On the side of His Highness Prince Sedrim, his clothes were destroyed but...」

NOOOOOOO!! What are you revealing!? Wasn't our eye contact completely misunderstood!?!

However, even when I tried stopping Chiffon-san's mouth, the Queen came to my side and blocked my mouth before I knew it, it was impossible for me to interrupt because I was hugged from behind in order to stop me. I tried to escape one way or another from the Queen by struggling, but where did those thin arms get all that power, her restraint didn't relax at all.

Thanks to that, I ended up being made to hear Chiffon-san's inside story, which I didn't want to hear, about my own shame.

Taking a sidelong glance at me, who was depressed and completely exhausted, Princess Aria's spirits broke through to the max.

「That is... perhaps to say, Sakura-chan and onii-sama shared a bed!? Moreover, Sakura-chan had, um, embraced onii-sama naked? It can't be, onii-sama, when Sakura-chan was sleeping...?」

「It seems that is fine. At the very least, I had confirmed it at the time I was at Sakura-chan's house so...」

「Confirmed you say, how might you have done so?」

「Of course, although I peeked into that part, because Sakura-sama was too small to check inside, though it was presumptuous of me, I checked with my finger.」

「A-And then...?」

「Yes, I certainly confirmed a 'membrane'.」

「Mfhfhm, mfpfhmm—!!」

Stoooop!! Please stop exposing my shameful storyyyy!!

「The reaction of Sakura-sama at that time was, incredibly innocent and cute... I, it seems I was dangerously close to awakening on that path wa... Oh yes, just like Sakura-sama's body size, that part was also cute like a baby, you know?」

Already...! My MP (Misery Points) has already run out! Please kill me instead!

Mercy, have mercy on me...!

Unrelated to me with my head down and my face flushed red with embarrassment, their conversation, which was like a public execution, continued on for quite some time...

Lines

1. ってそれはいいですわ！ いえ、よくはありますんが、今はいいのです！

Chapter 79 ~ Evaluation?

~things~

hetare ~ incompetent, good-for-nothing, lazy, worthless etc...

Chapter 79 – Evaluation?

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「For the time being, I now understand some of the, *mufufu*, ‘events’, of Sedrim-nii-sama and Sakura-chan *wa*. However, the fact is there was no progress either. Either way, I believe we need to make Sakura-chan’s feelings clear!」

Umm~, is it okay if I return home soon, I wonder...? I’m already at my limit...

I couldn’t suggest such a thing either, I was still restrained by the Queen’s arm, however... Isn’t it about time to let me go, yeah...?

「And so, Sakura-chan! How do you think about the usual Sedrim-nii-sama!？」

puha! I finally separated from the Queen’s arm... Although I say that, it’s only my mouth, my restraint still hasn’t come loose.

「Haa... How, you ask, *hetare*..... no, rather than his little delicacy, I have a feeling there is a problem with how he treats women, but, something like that *ne.*」

「Though there was not a need for you to intentionally correct yourself... Well, it cannot be helped that onii-sama lacks delicacy... Onii-sama is a prince after all, it had been normal for him to be waited upon since childhood, to speak of the women who have gone after him since he became aware of his surroundings as well..... you can understand, right? There has not been a woman who could connect with him equally that he was familiar with, as a matter of fact, even if he ignored them, numerous women still went after him... Because Edwill-nii-sama had a fiancée decided for him since childhood, the domestic noble daughters all

concentrated their aim onto Sedrim-nii-sama alone, saying that it could not be helped, it was more like it was inevitable...¹ Because of those sorts of circumstances, it is equivalent of saying Sedrim-nii-sama has had no female interactions regarding his private life. Of course, even if he did not do that, that isn't where the point of the problem lies, because there was still no end to those noble daughters chasing him.²」

In other words, it's to say it's the result of running from place to place away from those noble daughters huh. As expected of the Prince, he's been a *hetare* since childhood *ne*.

「By the way, although he is like this, he has recently become a lot better, you know? Well, no matter how much time passes, his passiveness cannot get cured...」

.....Who knew, for the Prince to be talked to pieces in this sort of place, I never would have guessed... With a somewhat pitiable feeling, for some reason, I opened my mouth and backed-up the Prince.

「U-Umm... The Prince also has strong points, you know? Look,umm, hey! It seems he came to rescue me at the time I got kidnapped!」

Although I don't remember!

「Eh? That sort of thing, I have not heard of you know!? When? Who did!? Were you okay!!?」

Ack, you didn't know!? I ended up bringing up a horrible topic!

「That was, if I remember correctly, the start of August, was it? His Highness Prince Sedrim held Sakura-sama and brought her to the guest rooms. She had immediately undergone a physician's examinations, and as far the story was told, it appeared that the daughter of Duke Hertsmere had her subordinates kidnap her. Being drugged, His Highness Prince Sedrim to the place where she was attacked.³ Fortunately, it was before *that* could happen but... I had also verified her *safety* at that time, so there is so mistake.」

Aah... even though I was about to dodge the question, Chiffon-san ended up chattering immediately...

As usual, the Queen was blocking my mouth...

「.....I see, so onii-sama can occasionally be helpful too *ne*...」

「That's right. Well, even if His Highness Prince Sedrim did not rush over, it seemed that the attackers had fainted because of Sakura-sama, but...」

「*Puha*. B-But I heard I was in a fairly dangerous state at that time, even so, I heard the Prince still went to save me, you know?」

「Aah, come to think of it, Len-sama had spoken of that *ne*. Sakura-sama's mana had gone out of control, so her life would be in danger if it went on like that or something...」

「Eeh!? Was she okay!? Her life in danger, you say... Wait, leaving that aside, Sakura-chan can use sorcery!?」

Huh? I have a feeling I'm getting pestered each time I follow up...

「Please calm down. It is because she was okay, that Sakura-sama is here right now. If there is a sorcery sealing magic tool for her sorcery, then she is able to use it. Sakura-sama has too much mana, so she could not convert her mana or something like that. Unexpectedly, it seems it was discovered because her shackles had a sorcery sealing magic tool built in.」

Huh huh? For some reason, Chiffon-san answered everything?

「Aah, that's right... I, of all people, had lost my composure *wa*. So that means, you are currently also carrying a sorcery sealing magic tool?」

「Eh? Ah, yes. It's a necklace. I had Len-san create it.」

「I see... How enviable *wa*. Despite being so cute, you can also use a sword and even sorcery on top of that... In addition to being a great cook...」

.....Since I don't particularly need to use sorcery, I would have wished for height and breasts instead...

「Umm, how did it turn into a conversation about me? I have a feeling we were originally having a different conversation...」

At this rate, I'll be digging a larger grave for myself, so I decided to change the subject. Because even now, my body has been dug into a snugly hole...

「Eh? Ah, that's right *ne*. Today's topic was not Sakura-chan *wa*. No, it certainly is about Sakura-chan, but regarding Sedrim-nii-sama *ne*.」

It seems I've immediately dug my own grave!

「For the time being, from the conversation up until now, we heard how Sakura-chan thinks about onii-sama but... Come to think of it, how about the time of the New Year's festival? It seems like you also came to see the parade, you also saw the swordplay tournament, right? How was the onii-sama during official business, and when he was wielding a sword? It may be favouritism towards relatives, but did it not feel different from the usual onii-sama?」

How did she know I went to look!?

「At the time of the parade, onii-sama said he saw Sakura-chan. The time of the swordplay tournament, we were watching from the reserved seats, you know? The reserved seats also has a very good view of the audience. Sakura-chan came around the time of the semi-finals, right?」

How did she know the question I was thinking!?

「It immediately shows on Sakura-chan's face, so it is clear *wa*.」

Huh? I have a feeling that someone had previously said the same thing...

「Although it is a virtue to be honest, I am worried that you are too honest *wa*... And so, how of my onii-sama? Do you find him a slightly cool?」

Eh? Umm... Certainly, he had a crisp appearance which was different from usual, I had a slightly better opinion of him at the swordplay tournament but... Come to think of it, I had a dream because of the parade *ne*. That sort of Prince, drawing near me...

Wait, I must not remember!

「*Ara? Ara ara?* With that look, it does not seem to be bad, right? This, perhaps it is good to think that onii-sama still has a chance?」

Uu, I must not remember! That is a delusion!

「Although I think you understood during the swordplay tournament, onii-sama's swordplay, thought may not look like it, is one of the five best in this country in ability, you know?⁴ Well, though it does not usually appear like

that...」

I understand. The Prince is usually a *hetare ne*... I didn't think he had ability to that extent until I saw the swordplay tournament...

No, I did think he had a certain extent of ability, you know? Only, his ability was more than I expected.

「And so, based on our conversation up until now, how does Sakura-chan think about onii-sama?」

No, even if you ask that...

After thinking for a little bit, I opened my mouth.

「.....I don't think of him in a bad way at least. Although he's lacking in a little delicacy, I heard it's because of his position and those previous women... Looking at it objectively, he has both status, and skill with the sword. He looks good too, and gentle as well. As a man, is he not an excellent article?」

Though he's a *hetare ne*.

But this answer, it appears Princess Aria was dissatisfied.

「Geez, I want to hear what Sakura-chan herself thinks *wa!* Objective opinions will not be heard *wa!*」

「Even if you ask my thoughts... In the first place, I had not thought of it like that, this sort of chibi and flat-chested girl, a girl who is lacking a woman's charm like this wouldn't have anybody has a partner, you know? Therefore, those sorts of thoughts are pointless.」

Though I've said it many times, other than people who have particular hobbies, I'm sure I won't find a partner. Besides, there's also that curse from the self-proclaimed God-sama...

As far as something like relations of a man and women, it's a very far off thing for me.

It may be said this is abject thinking, but I believe it's a reasonable assessment.

「Not at all *wa!* Sakura-chan is incredibly attractive! Even if you are short, even without a chest, there are plenty of gentlemen who will come to like you *wa!*」

Because Princess Aria has both of them, that she can say that. Especially those, melon-like large breasts... I-I'm not envious or anything!Dammit, get plucked off!

Even I, want to know what it would be like to say something like 「My shoulders are stiff from my heavy breasts」 just once, you know!

「.....It seems Sakura-chan has some sort of inferiority complex *ne*. Even if you look at my chest like that, I will not give them to you, you know? Besides, not all of a woman's charm lies in their chest *wa*. Sakura-chan also has something like a charm that only Sakura-chan has, you know? And there will certainly be a gentleman who is happy with it *wa*! Therefore, that way of thinking, how about try think a bit more positively?」

「However, I hear that men have preferences for women with large chests. Even the Prince, had said it before...」

「.....When? When did that story happen!?」

That was a story of my second month in this world, so...

「If I remember correctly, I think it was the end of June. Since it was the day I first came to the castle...」

Huh? Did he say he liked large chests...? Thinking back, I have a feeling it was a little different...

「That stupid brother...! Though he is normally a *hetare*, why exactly did he say that sort of thing...!?」

Ah, I have a feeling a set a flag for the Prince...? Was it my fault, I wonder...?

「A small matter has come up *wa*!Sakura-chan, leaving my onii-sama's matters aside, Sakura-chan has a proper charm. Please do not forget that.」

Princess Aria came up to me and held both my shoulders, looked into my face and said it. Being overwhelmed by that menacing look, I unconsciously nodded my head.

「Mother, Chiffon, it's time for a strategy meeting *wa*! We will deal with that *hetare* some way or another, okay!」

Leaving behind those words, Princess Aria left the room.

Following that, the Queen and Chiffon-san also ended up leaving.

While I was somewhat confused, I ended up being left in the room alone...

It's okay if I go back, right...?

By the way, on the evening of that day, the Prince didn't come for a meal.

The next day, in the castle, the Prince was completely exhausted for some reason or another...

Lines

1. 仕方ないと言えば仕方がないのですが...。
2. それでも寄って来る令嬢は後を絶ちませんでしたから
3. 薬を使われて、襲われそうになっていたところにセドリム王子殿下が駆け付けられたとか。
4. 剣術大会でもわかったと思いますけれど、お兄様はああ見えて剣術ではこの国で5本の指に入る実力ですよ？